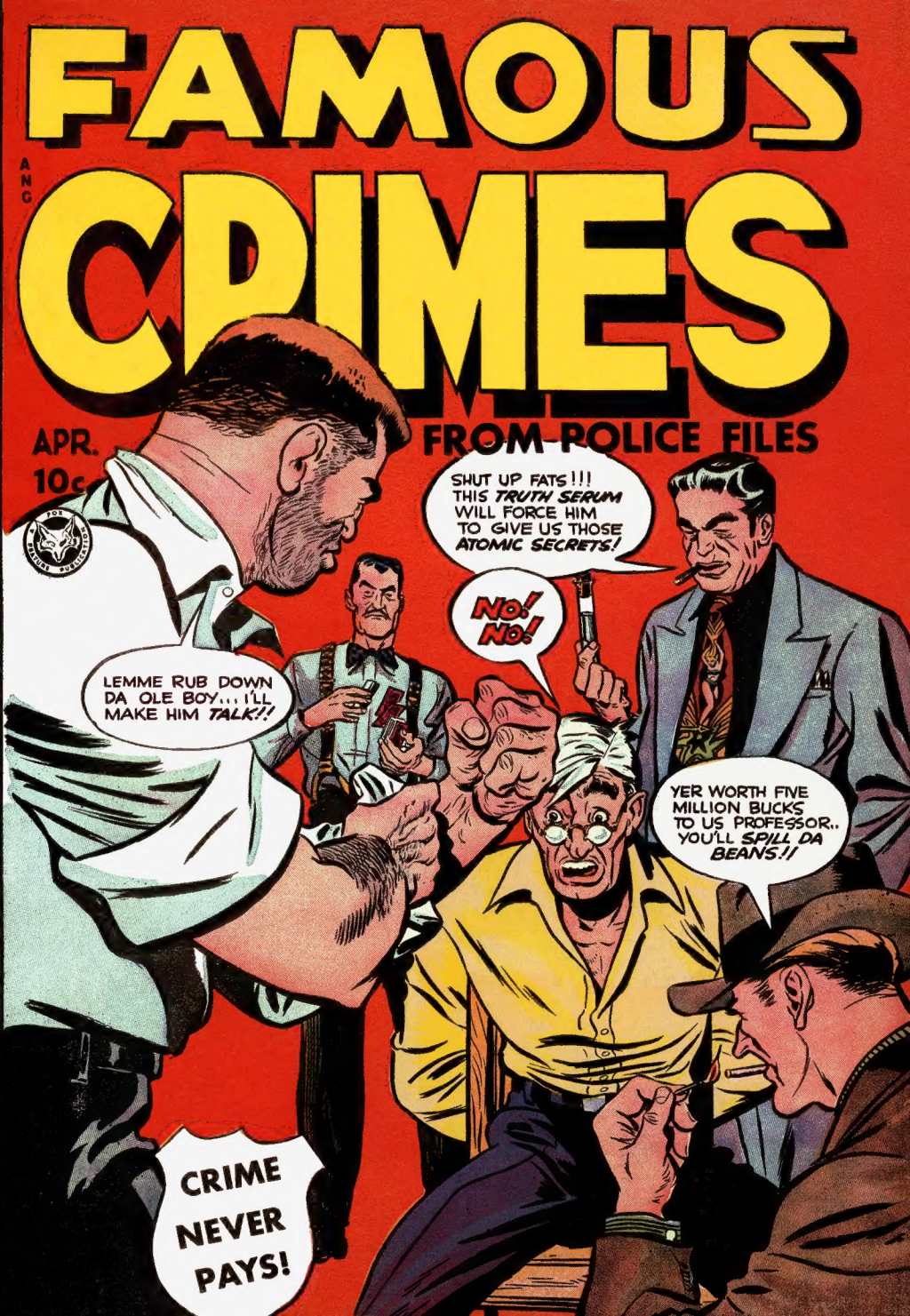
FAMOUS CRIMES
FROM POLICE FILES
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APR.
10c
SHUT UP FATS!!! THIS TRUTH SERUM WILL FORCE HIM TO GIVE US THOSE ATOMIC SECRETS!
NO! NO!
LEMME RUB DOWN DA OLE BOY... I'LL MAKE HIM TALK!!
YER WORTH FIVE MILLION BUCKS TO US PROFESSOR.. YOU'LL SPILL DA BEANS!!
CRIME NEVER PAYS!

BARBARY BILL

A TRUE CRIME STORY

OF ALL THE MULTITUDE OF THIEVES OPERATING ALONG SAN FRANCISCO'S WATERFRONT DURING THE INFAMOUS BARBARY COAST DAYS, PERHAPS THE BEST KNOWN... AND CERTAINLY THE MOST FEARED MAN OF ALL WAS A SWAGGERING RED-BEARDED GIANT NAMED BILL NICKEL.

BARBARY BILL'S SPECIAL FAME... WHICH MADE HIM A LEADING LIGHT AND SOMETHING OF A LEGEND IN EVEN THIS THUG'S PARADISE... WAS ATTRIBUTED TO HIS DEVIOUS ART OF 'SHANGHAING' UNWILLING VICTIMS ABOARD SAILING BOATS ON THEIR TRAVELS OUT OF THE PORT OF SAN FRANCISCO.

IT HAS NEVER BEEN ESTIMATED JUST HOW MANY MEN WERE FORCED TO SEA BY BARBARY BILL, THOUGH THE ACTUAL NUMBER WAS SUFFICIENTLY STAGGERING TO TERRORIZE THE POPULATION THROUGHOUT THE LENGTH AND BREADTH OF THE WESTERN UNDERWORLD. THE REASON WHY NO TOTAL IS AVAILABLE IS THAT BILL NICKEL DIDN'T BELIEVE IN KEEPING ANY WRITTEN RECORDS... AND AS A RESULT OF THIS HE BECAME ONE OF HIS OWN VICTIMS!

IN THE YEARS FOLLOWING THE DISCOVERY OF GOLD IN CALIFORNIA, A GREAT ARMY OF PROSPECTORS SWARMED ACROSS THE AMERICAN CONTINENT IN QUEST OF RICHES. THIS ARMY OF SEEKERS-AFTER-WEALTH CONTAINED AN INEVITABLE BAND OF THIEVES AND ROGUES... AS WELL AS MANY HONEST MEN WHO TRAVELED WEST TO SEEK THEIR FORTUNES.

ALL OFF, MEN! LOOKS LIKE WE'RE IN THE HILLS AT LAST!

RECKON THIS IS GONNA BE GOODBYE, MISTER NICKEL. I'M TAKIN' OFF INTO THE HILLS RIGHT AWAY. DON'T HAVE MUCH OF A STAKE WITH ME... JUST ENOUGH MONEY TO LAST A FEW WEEKS. IF'N I DON'T FIND ME SOME GOLD BEFORE THEN I'M GONNA HAFTA HEAD BACK EAST!

NO NEED TO SPLIT UP SO SOON, MR. RAND. LET'S HAVE A PARTING DRINK FIRST!

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'FAMOUS CRIMES' ON SALE 2nd WEEK OF EVERY MONTH!

FROM POLICE FILES

IT WASN'T THE SKY THAT CAVED IN ON YOUR HEAD, MISTER RAND... IT WAS JUST THE WEIGHT OF THIS HERE GOLD YOU CARRIED AROUND WITH YOU! CARRIED SO CONVENIENTLY, BY THE WAY, THAT I THINK I OUGHTTA LEAVE YOU SOME KINDA TOKEN OF MY GRATITUDE!
AGHHH!
CRACK!

SO LONG, SUCKER! THANKS A LOT FOR TOTING THIS GOLD ALL THE WAY OUT HERE FOR ME... TOOK A LOT OF WORRIES OFF'N MY MIND! AND CAUSE YOU'VE BEEN SUCH GOOD COMPANY ALL THE WAY OUT HERE... HERE'S A SIGN OF MY FRIENDSHIP! HAW HAW!

IN A FEW DAYS BILL NICKEL, CONSIDERABLY WEALTHIER THAN WHEN HE STARTED ON HIS WESTWARD TRECK, ARRIVED IN SAN FRANCISCO, THEN THE LIVELIEST CITY OF THE SPRAWLING WEST.....
THIS IS WHERE A MAN OF MY TALENTS OUGHTTA BE... IN THE BIGGEST TOWN ON THE WEST COAT!
BARBARY COAST SALOON

HERE'S T' TH' SALLY ANN... BEST LITTLE SHIP IN TH' HARBOR!
YER CRAZY! GIMME TH' OL' FLYIN' PORPOISE ANY OL' TIME! I EVEN GOT TWENNY DOLLARS HERE T' PROOVE IT! EITHER BACK UP YER SHIP... OR SHUT YER BIG DRUNKEN MOUTH!

HERE'S A GUY CAN JUDGE FER US! HEY, HOW ABOUT HOLDIN' OUR MONEY AN' JUDGIN' OUR BOATS?
AN' TELL US WHICH YA LIKE BEST! WHOEVER YA DECIDE WINS GETS ALL TH' DOUGH!
W-WHY... SURE, PARDNERS, BE GLAD T' HELP OUT!

THE SALLY ANN'S JUST ACROSS THE BAY HERE... WE'LL BE ALONG SIDE HER IN A MINUTE! THEN YA CAN HAND ME THE MONEY THAT DRUNK WAS WILLIN' T' BET!
HO HO! LOOK WHO'S CALLIN' ME DRUNK! WHY YOU'RE SO FRIED T' TH' HAT YA CAN HARDLY STAN' UP!
THEY'RE BOTH JUST ABOUT OUT ON THEIR FEET! IT SHOULDN'T BE HARD FOR ME TO BE THE WINNER OF THIS BET IF I PLAY IT RIGHT!

WELL, PARDNER... YOUVE SEEN 'EM BOTH NOW! WHICH ONE OF THEM BOATS DO YA THINK IS THE BETTER?
AN' AFTER YA TELL THIS DECK SWABBER YA THINK THERE AIN'T A FINER CRAFT THAN MINE... I'LL TAKE MY DOUGH AN' TREAT YA TO A DRINK!

SORRY TO TELL THIS TO YOU BOYS... BUT I DECIDED THAT I'M THE WINNER OF THAT BET! SIMPLY BECAUSE I'M SMARTER THAN BOTH OF YOU PUT TOGETHER... AND ALSO COULD USE YOUR MONEY!
H-HEY! WOTTA YA TRYIN' TA PULL ON US... YA DIRTY CROOK?

FROM POLICE FILES

YOU AIN'T GOT NO CALL TO USE LANGUAGE LIKE THAT, SAILOR... YOU OUGHTTA BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF! HERE I AM, WILLING TO HELP YOU AND YOUR DRUNKEN FRIEND... AN' YOU ABUSE ME JUST 'CAUSE I'M SMARTER THAN YOU ARE! SHAME ON YOU!

YOU AIN'T GONNA GET AWAY WITH THIS!

WHETHER OR NOT I'M ABLE TO GET AWAY WITH IT IS SOMETHING NEITHER OF YOU TWO BILGE-RATS WILL EVER KNOW! AN' I'M GETTIN' SORTA TIRED OF THIS CONVERSATION... SO I'LL BE SAYIN' 'SO LONG' TO THE BOTH OF YOU!

AGHHH!

SPLAT

GOODBYE, CHUMPS! AND THANKS FOR BEIN' SO TRUSTIN'... IT MUSTA BEEN MY BIG BLUE EYES THAT YOU LIKED! MEBBE THIS'LL LEARN YOU TO BE MORE CAREFUL WHEN YOU PICK FRIENDS... HAW HAW! THIS HERE TOWN IS GONNA BE MY OYSTER!

YESSIREE, MISTER... I GOTTA FEELING THAT IF A GUY PLAYS HIS CARDS RIGHT HE CAN WIND UP WAY AHEAD OF THE GAME... WITH PLENTY OF DOUGH IN HIS KICK! WHY JUST THIS AFTERNOON I RUN ACROSS A COUPLA SUCKERS... GO AHEAD AN' HAVE ANOTHER DRINK, STRANGER... IT'S ON ME!

THERE HE IS... THAT BIG GUY WITH THE RED BEARD... WHO STOLE OUR DOUGH BACK ON THE DOCKS A LITTLE WHILE AGO!

C'MON, LET'S GET 'IM... WE OWE THAT GUY A LITTLE GOIN OVER AN' I GOT A PURTY GOOD IDEA HOW WE CAN EVEN THE SCORE!

H-HEY... WHAT THE SAM HILL? WHERE DID YOU GUYS COME FROM?

WE BEEN LOOKIN' ALL OVER FER YA... T' COLLECT THAT DOUGH YOU RUN OFF WITH!

BUT SEE'N AS YA PROB'LY SPENT MOST OF IT ON THIS HERE HOOCH... WE GOT A DANDY IDEA HOW TO TURN YER HIDE INTO A PROFIT!

WHATTA YA GONNA DO? I'LL PAY THAT THERE MONEY BACK T' YA... I WUZ ON'Y KIDDIN' WHEN I BORROWED IT! YOU DON'T THINK BILL NICKEL'S THE KINDA GUY WOULD STEAL FROM DRUNKS, DO YA? I- UGHHH!

WE AIN'T EVEN BOTHERED TO THINK ABOUT IT, YA' LYIN' CUT-THROAT!

CRACK!

HAW HAW! THIS COYOTE IS SHORE IN FER TH' SURPRISE OF HIS LIFE WHEN HE SNAPS OUTTA THIS BEAUTY SLEEP! BET HE WON'T KNOW WHERE HE IS FER HALF AN HOUR...

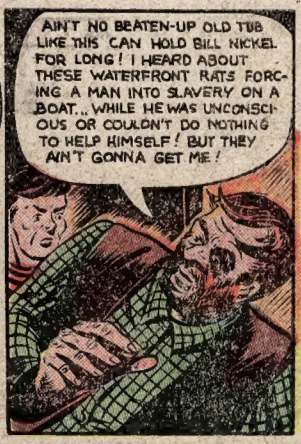
HE DESERVES IT... FER TAKIN' ADVANTAGE OF GUYS WHEN THEY'RE A LIL WEAK FROM... ER... UNDERNOURISHMENT!

HERE'S A CUSTOMER FER YA, CAP'N... OUGHTTA MAKE A DANG GOOD ABLE-BODIED SEAMAN WHEN HE SNAPS OUTTA IT! AN WHEN HE DOES WAKE UP IT AIN'T GONNA HELP HIM MUCH, 'CAUSE HE'LL BE ON YER SHIP, BOUND FER AUSTRALIA!

THANKS, BOYS! RECKON I BETTER GET 'IM ABOARD FAST. HE MIGHT NOT LIKE THE IDEA OF BEING SHANGHAIED!

SOME TIME LATER BILL NICKEL RECOVERED FROM THE STUNNING BLOW AND DISCOVERED THAT HE WAS IN THE CROWDED HULL OF A PACIFIC-BOUND SAILING-BOAT.....
LOOKS LIKE HE'S JUST ABOUT COMIN' OUT OF HIS LI'L NAP!
YEP! HE'S BEEN SNOOZIN' LIKE A BABY EVER SINCE WE PULLED OUT OF FRISCO!

W-WHERE AM I? WHO ARE YOU? DON'T REMEMBER COMIN' INTO THIS SALOON... SAY, WHAT'S THAT FUNNY FEELIN'? EITHER I BEEN DRINKIN' THE STRONGEST HOOCH EVER MADE OR I'M ON SOME KIND OF A BOAT! BOAT,! HEY, LEMME OUTTA HERE!

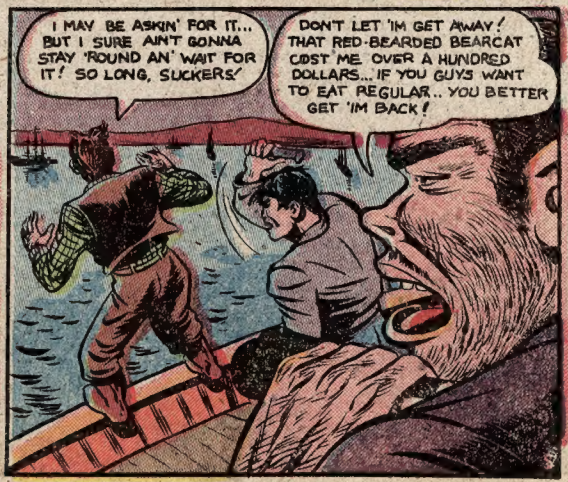

AIN'T NO BEATEN-UP OLD TUB LIKE THIS CAN HOLD BILL NICKEL FOR LONG! I HEARD ABOUT THESE WATERFRONT RATS FORCING A MAN INTO SLAVERY ON A BOAT... WHILE HE WAS UNCONSCIOUS OR COULDN'T DO NOTHING TO HELP HIMSELF! BUT THEY AIN'T GONNA GET ME!

AIN'T NO BLASTED SEA-DOGS GONNA PIRATE BILL NICKEL OFF DRY LAND.... NOT WHILE I CAN STILL LIFT A FINGER TO SAVE MYSELF! LUCKY I WOKE B'FORE WE WERE TOO FAR FROM SHORE! THIS WAY I CAN STILL SWIM BACK!

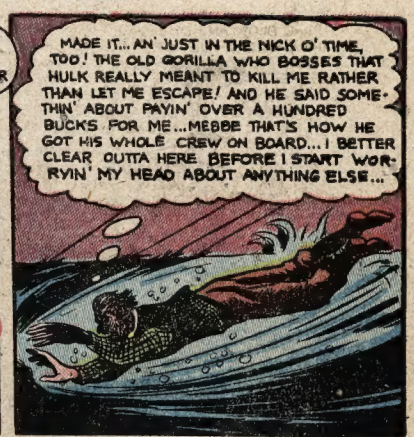
GET HIM, BOYS! NO ONE ABOARD CAP'N HANDS BOAT EVER GETS OFF UNTIL I GIVE THE WORD! IF'N THIS CRITTER DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO BEHAVE ONCE HE'S BEEN SHANGHAIED... THEN HE'LL HAFTA TAKE HIS LUMPS!
GRAB 'IM, LADS... WE'LL TEACH 'IM HIS MANNERS!

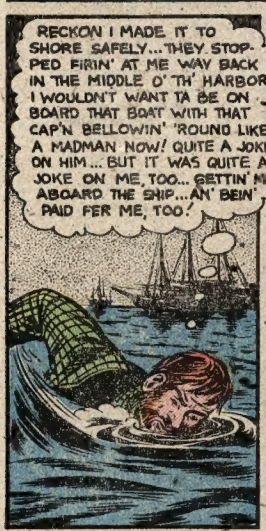
GET ONE OF HIS LEGS! HE AIN'T GOIN' VERY FAR... NO FURTHER THAN THE BRIG ON THIS SHIP!
LET GO OF ME, YOU FOOL... YOU AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' TO GAIN BY TRYIN' TO KEEP ME ON BOARD! LET GO MY LEG OR I'LL...
YA WON'T DO NOTHIN', ME HEARTY.. UNLESS YA WANT THIS HERE BELAYIN' PIN WRAPPED ROUND YER HEAD!

I WARNED YA, STRANGER! IF YOU'RE SO ANXIOUS... YA CAN HAVE MY FOOT RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF YOUR UGLY FACE!
YER REALLY ASKIN' FER TROUBLE, AIN'T YA!
CRUNCH!

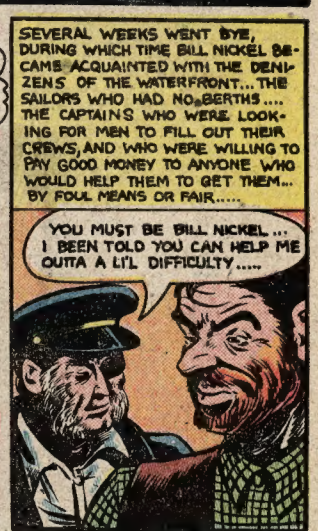

I MAY BE ASKIN' FOR IT... BUT I SURE AIN'T GONNA STAY 'ROUND AN' WAIT FOR IT! SO LONG, SUCKERS!
DON'T LET 'IM GET AWAY! THAT RED-BEARDED BEARCAT COST ME OVER A HUNDRED DOLLARS... IF YOU GUYS WANT TO EAT REGULAR.. YOU BETTER GET 'IM BACK!

MADE IT SO FAR... ONCE I HIT THAT WATER I'LL HAFTA STAY UNDER AS LONG AS I CAN... OR IT'S CURTAINS FOR ME!
AYE, AYE, CAP'N! STRIKE OUT THE FIRE-ARMS, BOYS... SHOOT THAT GUY... DON'T LET 'IM GO!
YA LET HIM SLIP OTTA YER FINGERS, YA CHICKEN-HEARTED LAND-LUBBERS! GRAB THE GUNS... WE AIN'T LETTIN' NO ONE I PAID FOR SNEAK BACK TO LAND!


MADE IT... AN' JUST IN THE NICK O' TIME, TOO! THE OLD GORILLA WHO BOSSES THAT HULK REALLY MEANT TO KILL ME RATHER THAN LET ME ESCAPE! AND HE SAID SOMETHIN' ABOUT PAYIN' OVER A HUNDRED BUCKS FOR ME... MEBBE THAT'S HOW HE GOT HIS WHOLE CREW ON BOARD... I BETTER CLEAR OUTTA HERE BEFORE I START WORRYIN' MY HEAD ABOUT ANYTHING ELSE...


RECKON I MADE IT TO SHORE SAFELY... THEY STOPPED FIRIN' AT ME WAY BACK IN THE MIDDLE O' TH' HARBOR! I WOULDN'T WANT TA BE ON BOARD THAT BOAT WITH THAT CAP'N BELLOWIN' 'ROUND LIKE A MADMAN NOW! QUITE A JOKE ON HIM... BUT IT WAS QUITE A JOKE ON ME, TOO... GETTIN' ME ABOARD THE SHIP... AN' BEIN' PAID FER ME, TOO!

LAND AHOY! SURE FEELS GOOD TA HAVE THAT OLD LAND UNDER MY FEET AGAIN! NOW I CAN DO A LITTLE THINKIN'... ABOUT FRISCO... AN' HOW EASY IT IS FER A SMART GUY TO MAKE MONEY... AN' HOW EASY IT IS TA GET SHANGHAIED OUTTA THIS PORT! PLENTY FOOD FER THOUGHT!


SEVERAL WEEKS WENT BYE, DURING WHICH TIME BILL NICKEL BECAME ACQUAINTED WITH THE DENIZENS OF THE WATERFRONT... THE SAILORS WHO HAD NO BERTHS.... THE CAPTAINS WHO WERE LOOKING FOR MEN TO FILL OUT THEIR CREWS, AND WHO WERE WILLING TO PAY GOOD MONEY TO ANYONE WHO WOULD HELP THEM TO GET THEM... BY FOUL MEANS OR FAIR.....
YOU MUST BE BILL NICKEL... I BEEN TOLD YOU CAN HELP ME OUTTA A LI'L DIFFICULTY.....

IF YOU'RE CAP'N JIM KING, THEN I'M THE MAN YOU'RE LOOKIN' FOR! LET'S CLEAR OUTTA HERE... WE GOT SOME VERY PRIVATE TALKIN' TO DO, AN' THESE WATER-LIZARDS GOT EARS GROWIN' OUTTA THEIR ELBOWS! LET'S HEAD FER A NICE QUIET LITTLE SALOON.....

HERE'S TO OUR HAPPY LI'L AGREEMENT, CAP'N KING! AN' HERE'S TO THE SIX ABLE-BODIED SEAMEN I PROMISE TO DELIVER TO YOUR BOAT SOME TIME TONIGHT, FOR A HUNDRED DOLLARS EACH, ON DELIVERY!
TO YOUR HEALTH, MISTER NICKEL... MAY IT CONTINUE FER A LONG WHILE IN THIS DANGEROUS KINDA BUSINESS YOU'RE UNDERTAKIN'!

BILL NICKEL DELIVERED THE SIX MEN HE HAD PROMISED TO CAPTAIN KING. HIS CIRCLE OF SEA-GOING CUSTOMERS INCREASED RAPIDLY. THE GOLD FIELDS WERE ATTRACTING SO MANY MEN THAT THE SHIP CAPTAINS WERE UNABLE TO RECRUIT ENOUGH HANDS TO MAN THEIR SHIPS. SO IT WAS THAT THEY CAME TO BILL NICKEL WITH THEIR PROBLEM!.....

DON'T YOU BOYS WORRY YER HEADS NONE... I'M GONNA DELIVER CREWS TO ALL OF YA, AT TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS A MAN!

WE NEED AT LEAST TWO DOZEN GUYS TONIGHT TO FILL THE ORDERS I TOOK THIS AFTERNOON. I DON'T CARE WHO YOU BRING BACK HERE, BUT PICK UP EVERY DRUNK WHO LOOKS LIKE HE WON'T PUT UP TOO MUCH OF A FIGHT! AN' DON'T WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT SLUGGIN' THEM...SO LONG AS YOU BRING 'EM BACK!

OKAY, GET MOVIN' NOW! FER EVERY GUY YOU BRING BACK I'LL PAY TWENTY-FIVE DOLLARS! IF YOU BOYS ARE SMART YOU'LL PICK YOURSELVES UP PLENNY MONEY TONIGHT! FER EVERY STIFF YA LUG IN BEYOND TH' TWO DOZEN I NEED RIGHT AWAY, I'LL PAY TEN DOLLARS! GOOD HUNTIN', NOW!

OKAY, BOSS!

AND GOOD HUNTING IT WAS! FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BILL NICKEL MADE MORE MONEY THAN HE'D EVER DREAMED OF.... BOUGHT HIMSELF A SALOON SO THAT HIS MEN WOULD HAVE A HEADQUARTERS... AND A PLACE TO HOLD THEIR CAPTIVES. BUT INEVITABLY THE 'BUSINESS' SLACKENED OFF. BILL HAD BEEN SO SUCCESSFUL THAT MEN FEARED TO WALK THE STREETS AT NIGHT.

IT'S GETTIN' AWFUL SLOW... AIN'T DRAGGED IN A STIFF FER TWO NIGHTS!

YOU TWO GUYS ARE TH' LAST ONES IN... ALL THE OTHERS BEEN BACK OVER AN HOUR, AN' NOT ONE O' YOU BROUGHT EVEN A KITTEN THAT I COULD SELL TO A SHIP CAP'N!

NAW... THIS TOWN'S GETTIN' AWFUL QUIET! I THINK IT'S 'CAUSE EVERYONE'S SCARED WE'RE GONNA GRAB 'EM!

I DO ALL TH' THINKIN' IN THIS OUTFIT, SANDERS! I DON'T PAY YOU GOOD MONEY FER NOTHIN' BUT TH' STIFFS YOU BRING IN... SO KEEP YER OPINIONS TO YERSELF FROM NOW ON!

OW!

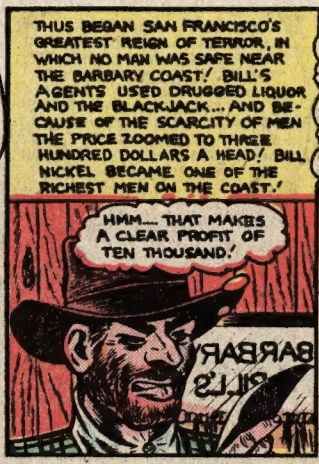
SLAP!

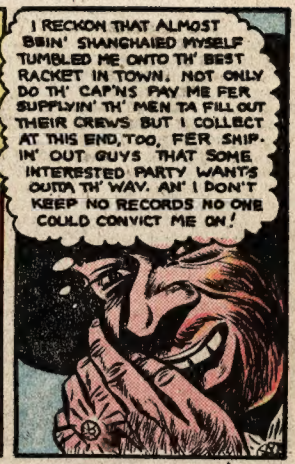
OKAY, BILL NICKEL, IF THAT'S THE WAY YOU WANT IT, YOU CAN GET YER OWN STIFFS! DEAL ME OUTTA THIS GAME... BUT WATCH OUT IN THE FUTURE! I'LL GET EVEN WITH YA FER TRYIN' TA STEP ON ME LIKE I WAS DIRT UNDER YER FEET!

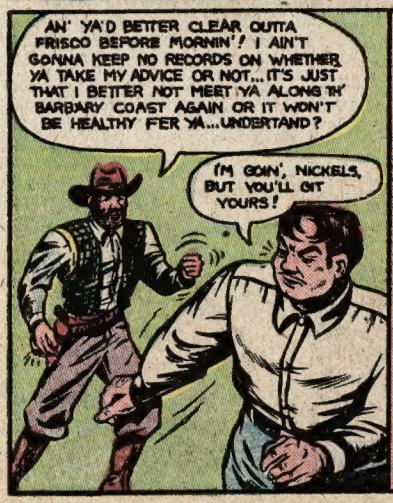
CLEAR OUTTA HERE, SANDERS! I'M TIRED OF HEARIN' YA YAP! AN' YOU'D BETTER WATCH OUT THAT YA DON'T END UP SHANGHAIED YERSELF!

WHAT IN BLUE BLAZES ARE YA STARIN' AT? WAKE UP! GO GET THE OTHER GUYS TOGETHER, AN' TELL 'EM I WANT TA SEE THEM RIGHT AWAY... HERE AT HEADQUARTERS! I PROMISED TO DELIVER A LOT O' MEN IN TH' NEXT FEW DAYS TO TH' CAP'NS IN TH' HARBOR... AN' I'M GONNA DO IT! AN' YOU GUYS ARE GONNA DO YOUR PART!

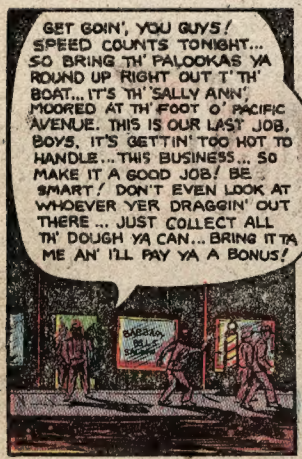
HEY!

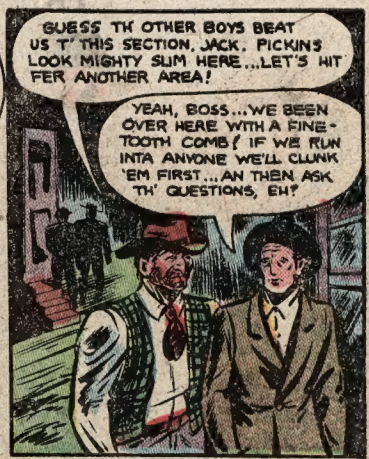






KILLINGS HAD BECOME SO COMMON DURING THE REIGN OF TERROR THAT NICKEL STARTED THAT IF A MAN WAS MISSING ANYWHERE ALONG THE WATERFRONT IT WOULD BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT HE HAD BEEN SHANGHAIED AND WAS ON BOARD ONE OF THE BOATS LEAVING SAN FRANCISCO EVERY DAY! THEREFORE, SEARCHES WERE CURSORY... SINCE EVERY MAN WHO WAS EITHER MISSING OR DEAD WAS ALMOST CERTAIN TO HAVE LEFT PORT ON ONE OF THE MANY SHIPS THAT WERE SAILING THE PACIFIC....





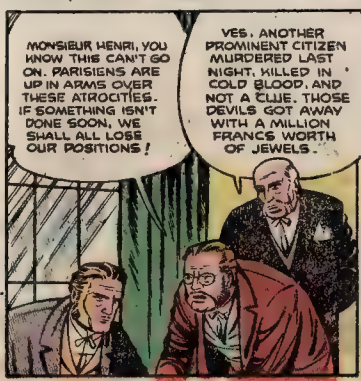
AND SO IT CAME TO PASS THAT BARBARY BILL NICKEL WAS KILLED BY HIS OWN MEN AND SOLD TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE SALLY ANN... A VICTIM OF HIS OWN VICIOUS ORGANIZATION! IT WASN'T UNTIL THE SALLY ANN WAS AT SEA THAT THE CAPTAIN DISCOVERED THE RED-BEARDED MAN HE HAD PAID FOR WAS DEAD... AND SO THE UNKNOWN VICTIM WAS THROWN INTO THE PACIFIC! MEANWHILE, WITHOUT BILL'S LEADERSHIP....

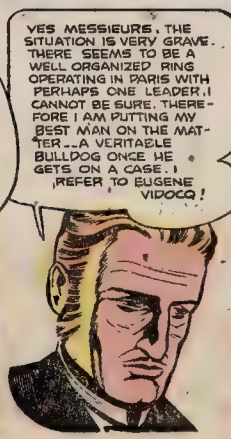
CONSTANTINE THE KILLER

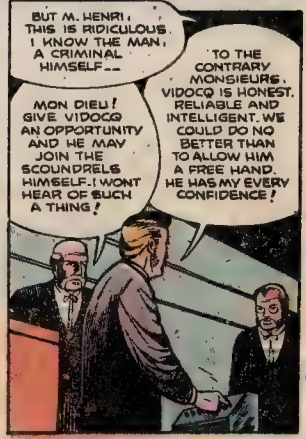
A TRUE CRIME STORY

IT WAS ABOUT 1850 WHEN PARIS FRANCE WAS ROCKED BY A SERIES OF CRIMES UNTIL ITS CITIZENS SCREAMED FOR ACTION BY THE POLICE. M. HENRI, PREFECT OF THE PARIS POLICE, FINALLY CALLED IN EUGENE FRANCIOS VIDOCQ, THE FIRST OF GREAT FRENCH DETECTIVES. A FANTASTIC CHARACTER WHO HAD DONE EVERYTHING FROM TRAVELLING WITH A CIRCUS AS AN ACROBAT TO SERVING TIME FOR FORGERY. BELIEVING THAT ONE SHOULD "SET A THIEF TO CATCH A THIEF" M. HENRI OFFERED VIDOCQ A JOB ON THE SURETE. THE STRONG WELL BUILT, GREY HAIRED MAN ACCEPTED AND SOON BECAME THE TERROR OF ALL FRENCH CRIMINALS---

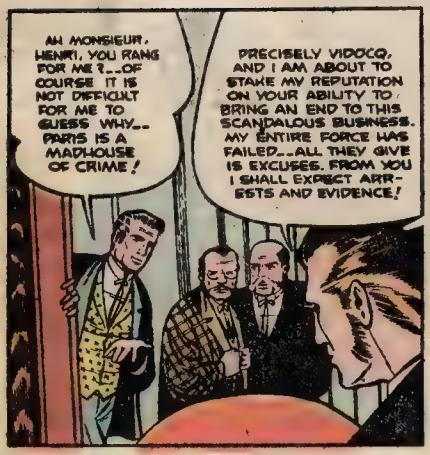
MONSIEUR BERTAUX, FRANCE'S MOST FAMED PROSECUTOR AND MONSIEUR PARISOT, GOVERNOR OF PRISONS IN FRANCE PRESSED PREFECT HENRI FOR ACTION---

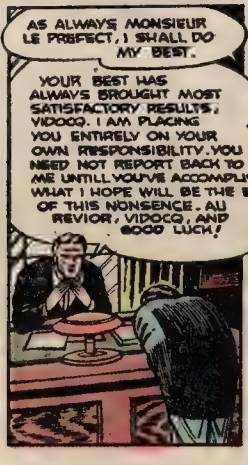


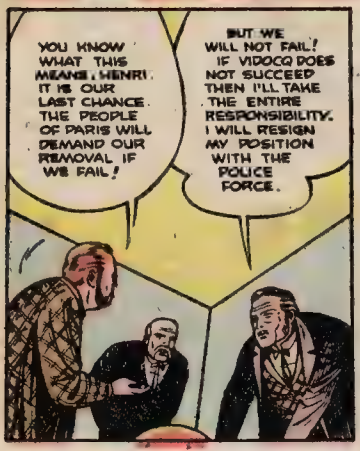




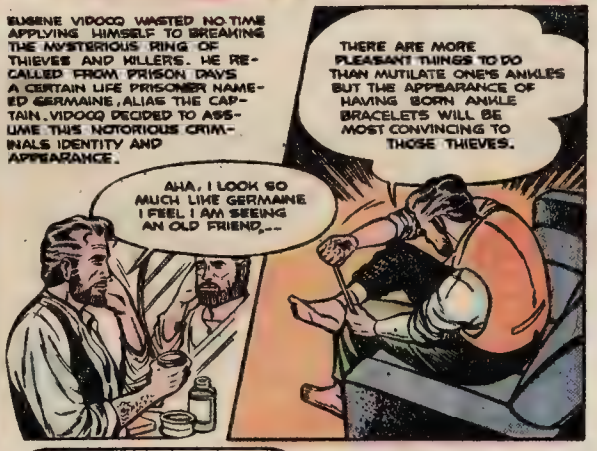
FAMOUS CRIMES

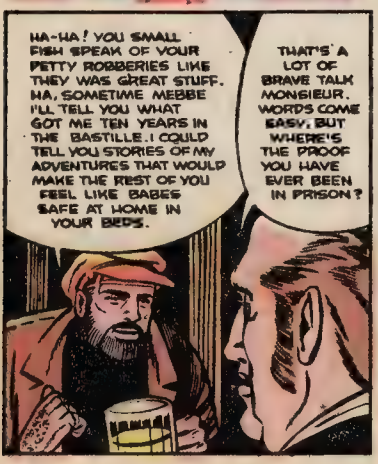


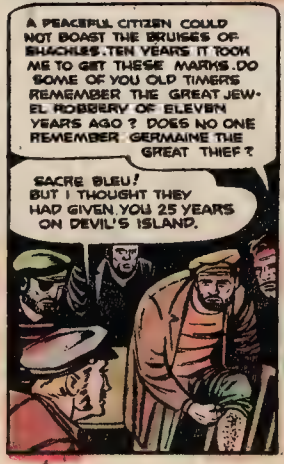


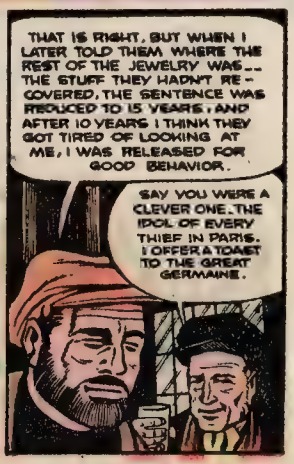


EUGENE VIDOCQ WASTED NO TIME APPLYING HIMSELF TO BREAKING THE MYSTERIOUS RING OF THIEVES AND KILLERS. HE RECALLED FROM PRISON DAYS A CERTAIN LIFE PRISONER NAMED GERMAINE, ALIAS THE CAPTAIN. VIDOCQ DECIDED TO ASSUME THIS NOTORIOUS CRIMINALS IDENTITY AND APPEARANCE.









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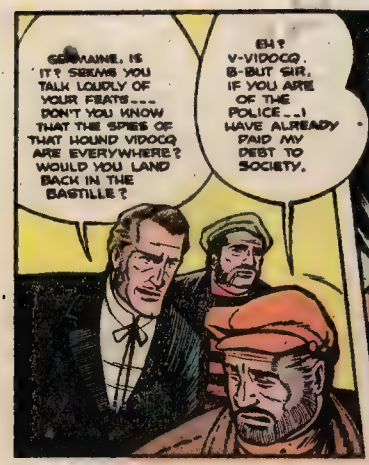
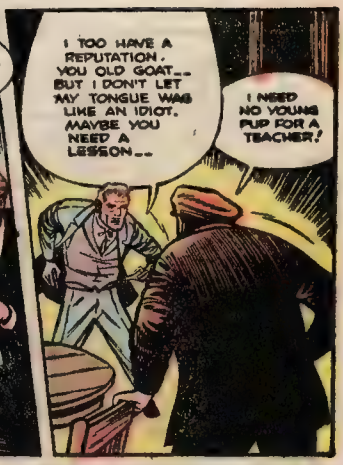
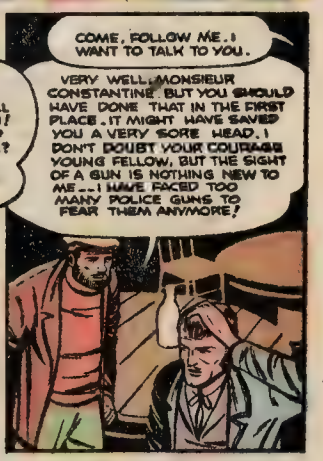
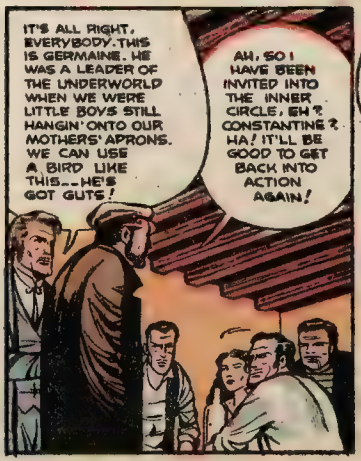
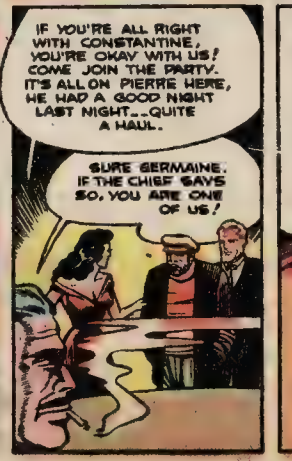


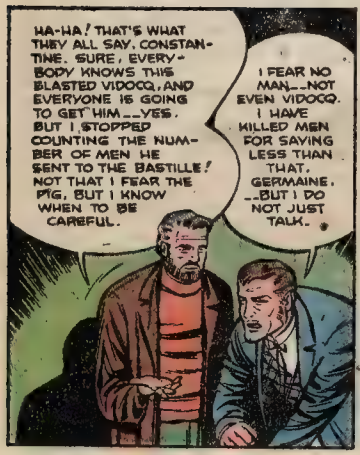


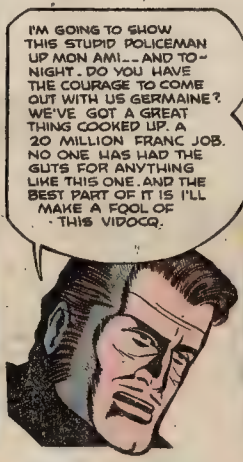


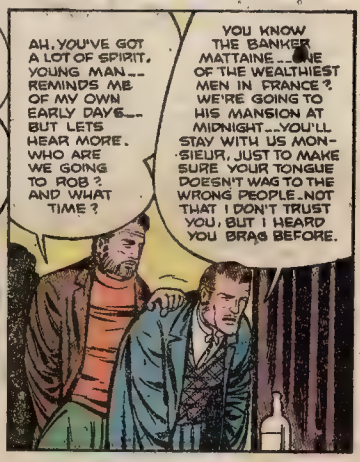


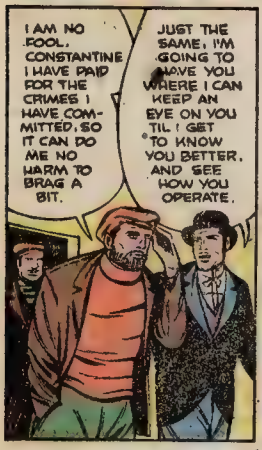


FAMOUS CRIMES

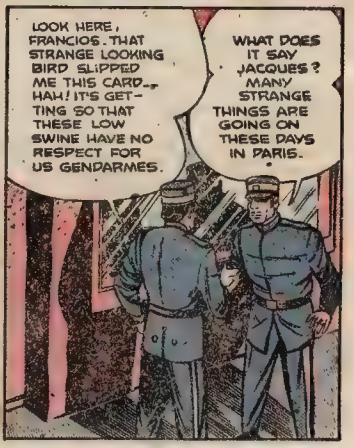


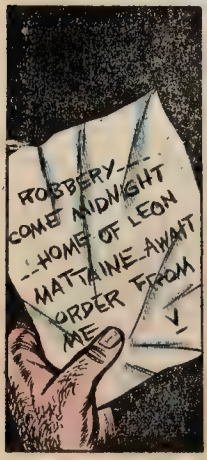


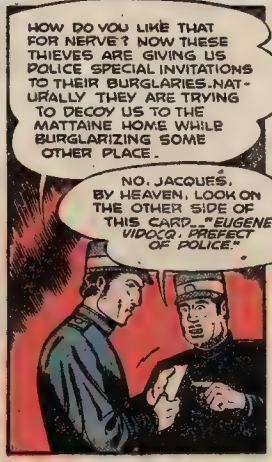




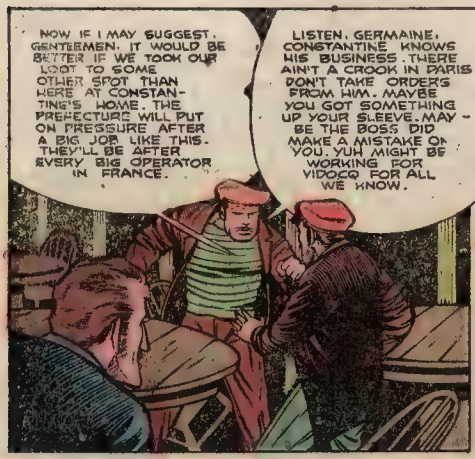
IT'S A TIGHT SPOT FOR THE GREAT DETECTIVE--HOW IS HE TO PREVENT THE PROPOSED ROBBERY, AND IF IT SHOULD GO THROUGH, HOW IS HE, A FORMER CONVICT TO PROVE HE WASN'T ACTUALLY IN ON THE JOB SHOULD THE CRIMINALS BE CAUGHT, AND INVOLVE HIM? LUCK WAS WITH VIDOCQ, HOWEVER. FINDING TWO GENDARMES ON HAND, CONCEALING A CARD AND PENCIL BEHIND HIS BACK HE DESPERATELY SCRIBBLED A NOTE----

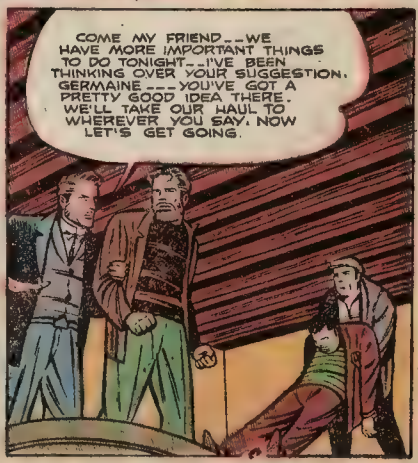


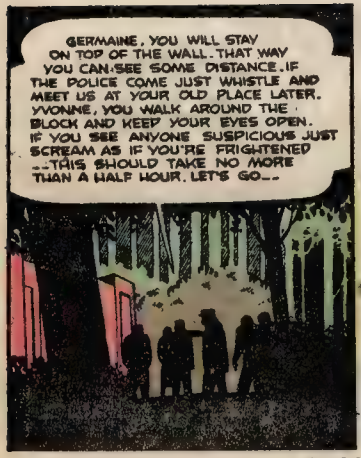




FROM POLICE FILES

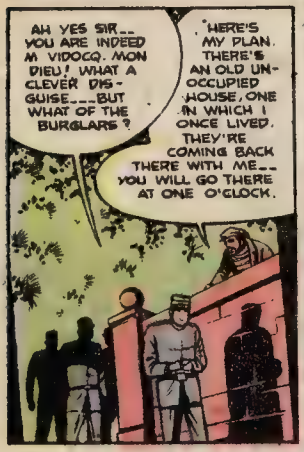




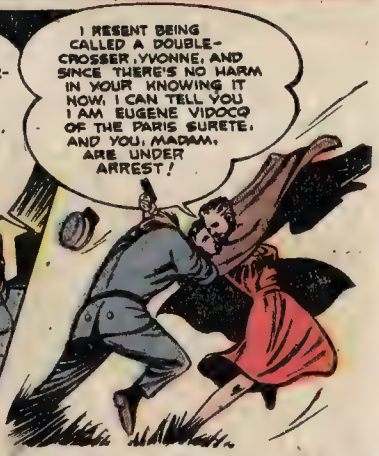

GERMAINE, YOU WILL STAY ON TOP OF THE WALL. THAT WAY YOU CAN SEE SOME DISTANCE. IF THE POLICE COME JUST WHISTLE AND MEET US AT YOUR OLD PLACE LATER. YVONNE, YOU WALK AROUND THE BLOCK AND KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN. IF YOU SEE ANYONE SUSPICIOUS JUST SCREAM AS IF YOU'RE FRIGHTENED --THIS SHOULD TAKE NO MORE THAN A HALF HOUR. LET'S GO--

WORK AS QUIETLY AS POSSIBLE MEN. IF ANYONE SHOULD INTERFERE, USE YOUR BLACKJACKS IF YOU CAN, OTHERWISE YOUR GUNS. IF YOU HAVE TO SHOOT WE'LL LEAVE AT ONCE.

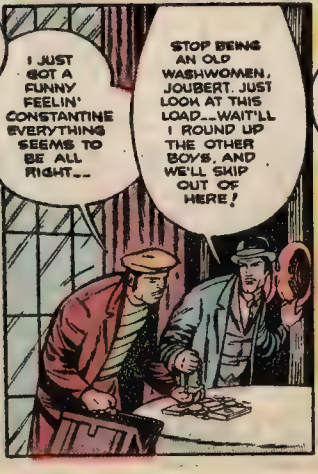
PSSST! THIS IS VIDOCQ OVER THIS WAY--- GENDARMES, ARE YOU THERE?
OUI MONSIEUR. WE ARE HERE. HAVE YOU PROOF YOU ARE REALLY EUGENE VIDOCQ? DO YOU HAVE IDENTIFICATION?

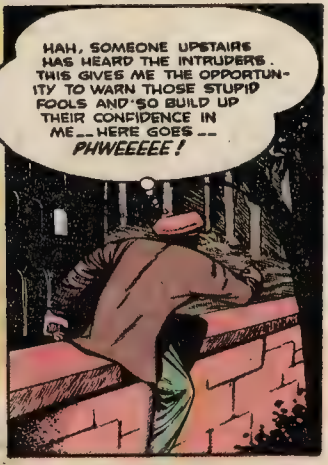

AH YES SIR-- YOU ARE INDEED M VIDOCQ. MON DIEU! WHAT A CLEVER DISGUISE---BUT WHAT OF THE BURGLARS?
HERE'S MY PLAN. THERE'S AN OLD UNOCCUPIED HOUSE, ONE IN WHICH I ONCE LIVED. THEY'RE COMING BACK THERE WITH ME--- YOU WILL GO THERE AT ONE O'CLOCK.

SO M. GERMAINE YOU SNEAK--YOU DOUBLE-CROSSER! JOUBERT WAS RIGHT. YOU ARE WORKING WITH THE POLICE, BUT IT WILL DO YOU NO GOOD. WHEN I GIVE THE SIGNAL CONSTANTINE WILL COME TO TAKE CARE OF YOU.
AH, I HAD FORGOTTEN ABOUT MISS LA ROUX. THIS, GENTLEMEN, IS ONE OF THE VILE GANG.

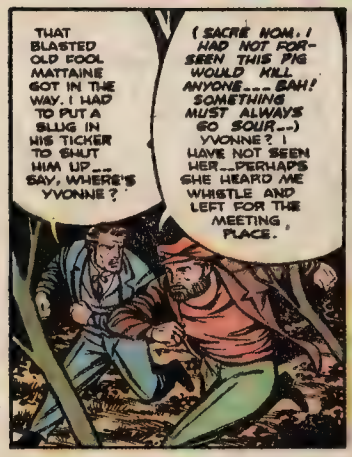

I RESENT BEING CALLED A DOUBLE-CROSSER, YVONNE, AND SINCE THERE'S NO HARM IN YOUR KNOWING IT NOW, I CAN TELL YOU I AM EUGENE VIDOCQ OF THE PARIS SURETE, AND YOU, MADAM, ARE UNDER ARREST!

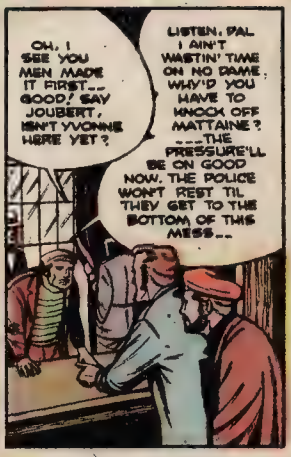
THERE--IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN EASIER IF I'D KNOWN THE COMBINATION. NOW LET'S CLEAN IT OUT, AND GET OUT OF HERE!
YOU SEEM NERVOUS, JOUBERT --WHY WORRY? M. GERMAINE WAITS OUT THERE--I TOLD YVONNE TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM. YOU KNOW I DON'T TAKE CHANCES!

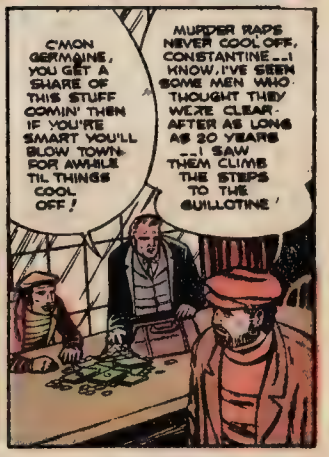

I JUST GOT A FUNNY FEELIN' CONSTANTINE EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE ALL RIGHT--
STOP BEING AN OLD WASHWOMEN, JOUBERT. JUST LOOK AT THIS LOAD--WAIT'LL I ROUND UP THE OTHER BOYS, AND WE'LL SKIP OUT OF HERE!

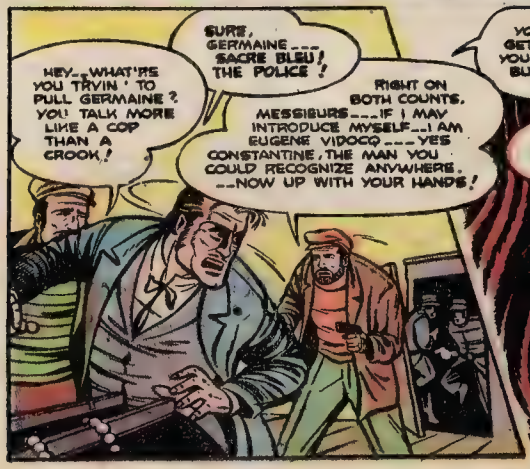

HAH, SOMEONE UPSTAIRS HAS HEARD THE INTRUDERS. THIS GIVES ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO WARN THOSE STUPID FOOLS AND SO BUILD UP THEIR CONFIDENCE IN ME--HERE GOES -- PHWEEEEE!

FROM POLICE FILES

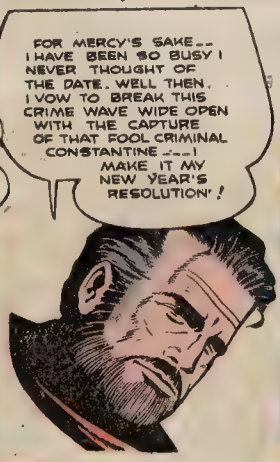




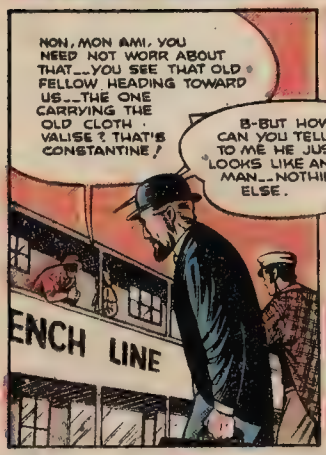




FAMOUS CRIMES



VIDOCQ AND THE OFFICER, PAUL LA ROQUE AFTER DONNING TWO OF THE DETECTIVES MANY DISQUISES, HAVE TRAVELLED TO CHERBOURG; THE SHREWD DETECTIVE HAD REALIZED THAT CONSTANTINE A CONFESSED MURDERER, WILL MAKE HASTE TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY AND HIS MOST LIKELY POINT OF DEPARTURE WOULD BE THIS CHANNEL PORT.



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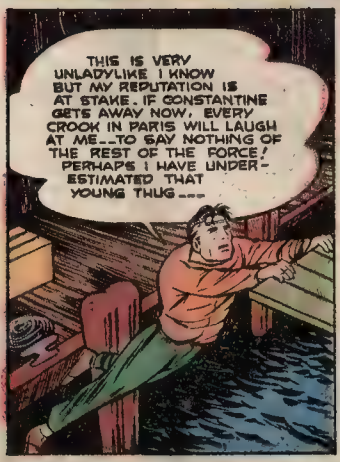
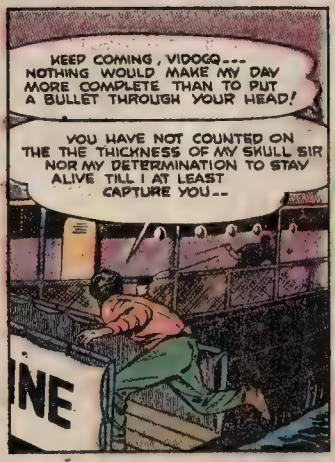
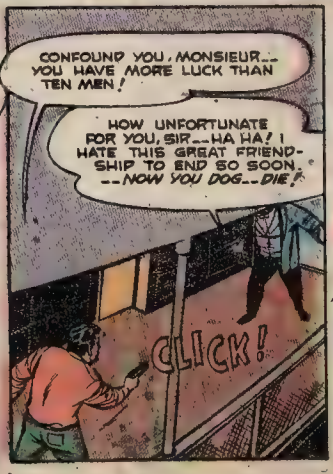
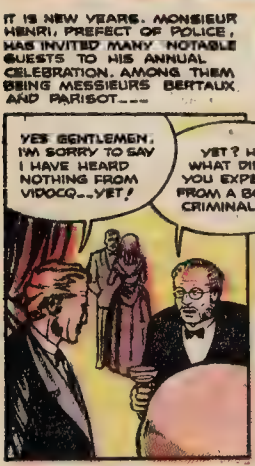






FAMOUS CRIMES

IT IS NEW YEARS. MONSIEUR HENRI, PREFECT OF POLICE, HAS INVITED MANY NOTABLE GUESTS TO HIS ANNUAL CELEBRATION. AMONG THEM BEING MESSIEURS BERTAUX AND PARISOT...



"Mr. Blackburn should have known better."

THE trial and execution of Joseph Blackburn, the Leeds attorney, aroused the greatest interest in the north of England, owing to the position and popularity of the criminal. He was the son of Robert Blackburn, a man of some consequence in his little world. The son was baptized at the parish church of Rothwell on March 27, 1765. After leaving school, he worked for an attorney, and eventually set up in practice for himself. On August 8, 1793, he was married to Miss Anne Hemingway, of the same village, and an amiable lady who belonged to a rich family.

Joseph Blackburn was successful in his profession, becoming one of the most prosperous lawyers in the city of Leeds. We are told that "no man living enjoyed more generally the credit of integrity and respectability than Mr. Blackburn." But like fools before him, and after him, he began to lead a double life and had many clandestine love affairs. However he managed to conceal his irregularities from his wife as well as from the general public. But leading a double life was an expensive proposition and soon he began to spend more than he earned.

On December 14, 1814, after having been in practice for twenty years, a man named George Jacques, who had formerly been his clerk, laid an information against him before the magistrates for removing stamps from old deeds and placing them upon new ones. Jacques had been discharged from his job for dishonesty and was being threatened with prosecution. In consequence of his accusation, Blackburn's office was raided by the police, who believed that they had discovered incriminating evidence. As a result, the lawyer was arrested and taken to York Castle.

The trial took place at York on Saturday, March 18, 1815 before Sir Simon le Blanc. The counsel for the Crown were Mr. James Alan Park, Mr. Topping, Mr. Wailes, and Mr. Richardson. The prisoner was defended by Mr. James Scarlett, Mr. Joseph Litterdale, and Mr. Williams. He was arraigned under various indictments, charging him with forging and counterfeiting the impression of a certain stamp or die, used under the direction of the Commissioners of Stamps. Its purpose was to denote the payment of certain duties imposed on various deeds and other securities. And that he feloniously removed the stamps from executed deeds and transferred them to others, with an intent to defraud the Revenue. The particular indictment selected as the subject of his trial, accused him of forging a 2 pound stamp upon a mortgage deed of 180 pounds.

In opening the case for the prosecution, James Alan Park expressed his regret that it had fallen to his lot to appear against Mr. Blackburn, a man whom he had known long and well, and who had conducted many actions in which he had been retained. He proceeded to explain that the stamp in question had not been affixed to the deed at the stamp office, because the parchments which passed through the stamping machine had a visible impression of the stamp on the back of the skin, which was not the case in this deed. Hence it must have been transferred from some other document. Moreover, the prisoner had employed an engraver at Leeds to make several dies, "suitable for making any impression resembling the words which denote the value that are upon the stamps used by the Commissioners." And the numerals and words "II." pounds impressed upon the stamp of the particular deed, was an impression of one of these dies. When the officers of justice had searched Mr. Blackburn's house they had found a

box containing the dies along with a number of odd deeds from which the stamps had been cut off. It was obvious that the accused man would benefit by taking the stamps from old instruments and affixing them upon new ones, as he would put into his pocket the whole amount of the duty, since naturally he would charge the nominal value of the stamps to his clients.

The evidence of two high officials from the stamp office in London told heavily against the prisoner. For neither of them had the least hesitation in declaring that the denomination of the 2 pound stamp on the mortgage deed for 180 pounds had been altered. The numeral "II." and the word "pounds" not having been impressed by the stamp used by the Commissioners. They stated also that no stamp was ever printed on a separate label, detached from the papers or parchment on which the instrument was to be executed.

On cross-examination it was shown that Jacques, the clerk, who admittedly had a grudge against his old employer, might have been implicated in placing the dies and the old deeds in the position in which they were found. It was suggested also that the stamp on the mortgage deed of 180 pounds, which had been kept in an unlocked box, might possibly have been damaged accidentally. Yet, counsel for the prisoner were unable to explain why it had been pasted on the instrument and had not been impressed upon the parchment in the government offices in the usual way.

Mr. Blackburn, who, we are told, was dressed in a suit of mourning, with his hair powdered, made an inadequate defense, "labouring under great and evident emotion." He was stuck by a neat bit of detective work—showing that the stamp had not been impressed upon the parchment. And then, he was unable to explain the fact that he had ordered those dies to be made for him. The jury retired and in less than a quarter of an hour they came back to the court room with the verdict, "Guilty."

Now at this point of the case, you may be doing a little bit of arithmetical close calculation, trying to figure out just how much 2 pounds equals in our money. Say about ten dollars today. What should be the penalty for such a crime? A fine or a year in jail? You may be shocked to learn that he was sentenced to death! You see, the English law was very strict. He had committed a forgery and at that time, the penalty was death.

Great efforts were made to obtain a reprieve. A petition was signed by the people of Leeds and Mrs. Blackburn hurried to London with the intention of throwing herself at the feet of the Prince Regent to beg for the life of her unhappy husband. In this she failed, as the Home Secretary would not grant her the interview. Finally, when he knew he had to die, Joseph Blackburn confessed that he was guilty. He even said that "the irregularities of his past life had been so great as to have deserved the death which had been awarded against him for an offense of a different nature."

On April 8th he was taken to the place of execution. Upon reaching the scaffold, he knelt down upon a low stool, with his back to the spectators, while prayers were said for him. When it was time for him to rise, he had to be assisted by the jailers, who supported him in their arms, while the rope was placed around his neck. The execution was not efficient. When the drop fell, the noose slipped and Blackburn appeared "much convulsed." After he had hung for about two minutes, the hangman endeavoured to replace the cord, but it was not until six or seven minutes after the platform had fallen that his struggles ceased.

Here was a man who certainly should have known better, that you can't beat the law, that crime doesn't pay. Unfortunately, there are people who feel they have found a foolproof way to beat the law, and only too late realize that they have merely fooled themselves.

PAYOFF-- DEATH!

LEAVING A DEADLY TRAIL THAT COULD END ONLY IN A DANGLING ROPE, JOSEPH TANKO AND FLOYD HALL, KILLERS, STICKUP ARTISTS AND ESCAPED CONVICTS, ROAMED CALIFORNIA COMMITTING CRIME AFTER CRIME UNTIL THE INEVITABLE PAYOFF CAME FROM THE BLAZING GUNS OF THE LAW...

A TRUE CRIME STORY

U.S. MAIL

2-K-31

NOV. 5, 1923. AS POLICE SERGEANT ERNEST MALTEN TALKS TO A FRIEND IN SAN FLORO, CALIFORNIA,

GOSH, ERNIE, IT'S A QUARTER TO TWELVE! I'D BETTER GET ALONG TO BED. WHA-- HEY! LOOK AT THAT GUY COMING THROUGH! HE MUST BE DOING SEVENTY!

YOU SAID IT, JIM. THESE JOY-RIDERS GET WORSE EVERY DAY. I'LL PUT A STOP TO THIS RIGHT NOW!

HEY! PULL OVER! STOP!

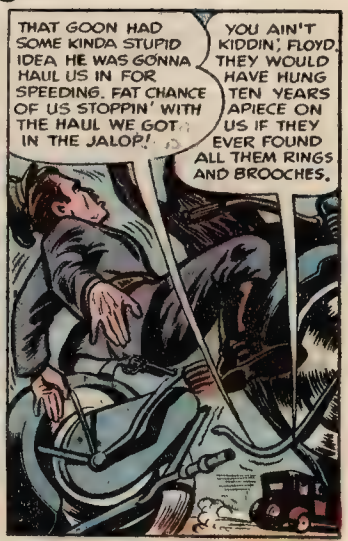
HAW! HAW! HAW!

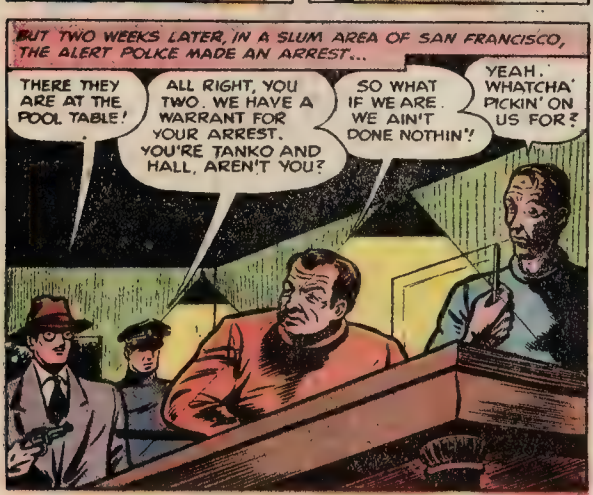
A WISE GUY, HUH? I'M GOING TO PULL THOSE BIRDS IN IF IT'S THE LAST THING I DO. HALF-WITS LIKE THAT ARE A DANGER TO LIFE AND LIMB. IF THEY DON'T KILL SOMEBODY ELSE, THEY'RE BOUND TO KILL THEMSELVES!

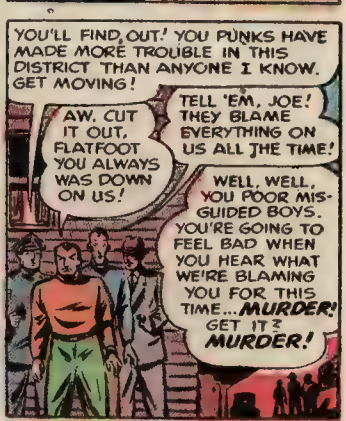
TRUER WORDS WERE NEVER SPOKEN, ERNIE. WATCH YOUR STEP NOW THEY MAY BE FULL OF BOOTLEG HOOTCH CAN'T TELL WHAT THEY'LL DO, SO TAKE IT EASY.

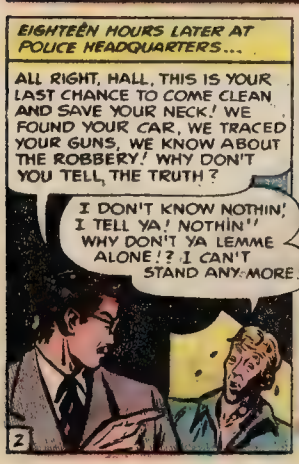
MINUTES LATER, JUST OUTSIDE OF TOWN...
NOW I'VE GOT THESE MANIACS. I'LL THROW EVERYTHING IN THE BOOK AT THEM. HEY! PULL OVER! DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND ENGLISH? I SAID.. GET OVER!

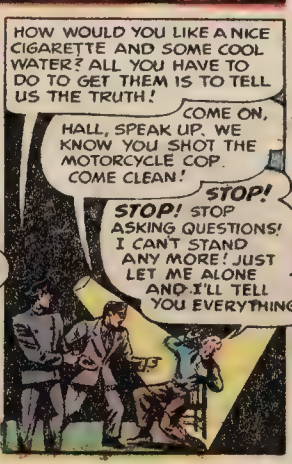
LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO TEACH THOSE GUYS A LESSON IN LAW OBEDIENCE! EEEYAH!
MAYBE NOW THAT DUMB COPPER WILL LEARN TO KEEP HIS NOSE CLEAN!
YEAH, JOE, I'M GONNA BLAST THE FLATFOOT GOOD!


THAT GOON HAD SOME KINDA STUPID IDEA HE WAS GONNA HAUL US IN FOR SPEEDING. FAT CHANCE OF US STOPPIN' WITH THE HAUL WE GOT IN THE JALOP!
YOU AIN'T KIDDIN', FLOYD. THEY WOULD HAVE HUNG TEN YEARS APIECE ON US IF THEY EVER FOUND ALL THEM RINGS AND BROOCHES.


BUT TWO WEEKS LATER, IN A SLUM AREA OF SAN FRANCISCO, THE ALERT POLICE MADE AN ARREST...
THERE THEY ARE AT THE POOL TABLE!
ALL RIGHT, YOU TWO. WE HAVE A WARRANT FOR YOUR ARREST. YOU'RE TANKO AND HALL, AREN'T YOU?
SO WHAT IF WE ARE. WE AIN'T DONE NOTHIN'!
YEAH. WHATCHA' PICKIN' ON US FOR?

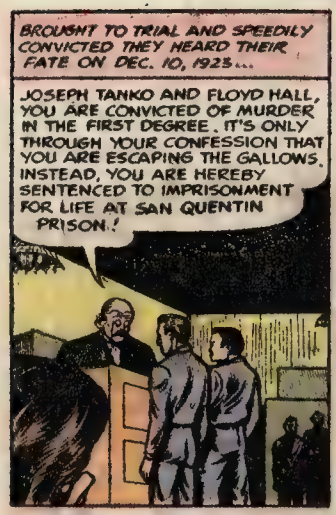

YOU'LL FIND OUT! YOU PUNKS HAVE MADE MORE TROUBLE IN THIS DISTRICT THAN ANYONE I KNOW. GET MOVING!
AW. CUT IT OUT, FLATFOOT YOU ALWAYS WAS DOWN ON US!
TELL 'EM, JOE! THEY BLAME EVERYTHING ON US ALL THE TIME!
WELL, WELL, YOU POOR MISGUIDED BOYS. YOU'RE GOING TO FEEL BAD WHEN YOU HEAR WHAT WE'RE BLAMING YOU FOR THIS TIME... MURDER! GET IT? MURDER!

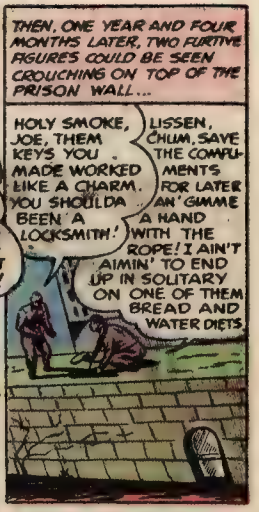

EIGHTEEN HOURS LATER AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...
ALL RIGHT, HALL, THIS IS YOUR LAST CHANCE TO COME CLEAN AND SAVE YOUR NECK! WE FOUND YOUR CAR, WE TRACED YOUR GUNS, WE KNOW ABOUT THE ROBBERY! WHY DON'T YOU TELL THE TRUTH?
I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN', I TELL YA! NOTHIN'! WHY DON'T YA LEMME ALONE!? I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE!

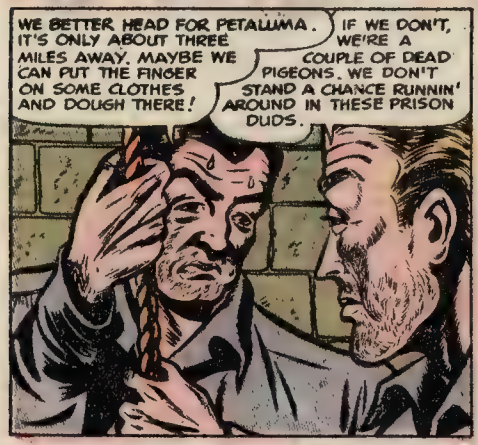

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE A NICE CIGARETTE AND SOME COOL WATER? ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO GET THEM IS TO TELL US THE TRUTH!
COME ON, HALL, SPEAK UP. WE KNOW YOU SHOT THE MOTORCYCLE COP. COME CLEAN!
STOP!
STOP! STOP ASKING QUESTIONS! I CAN'T STAND ANY MORE! JUST LET ME ALONE AND I'LL TELL YOU EVERYTHING!

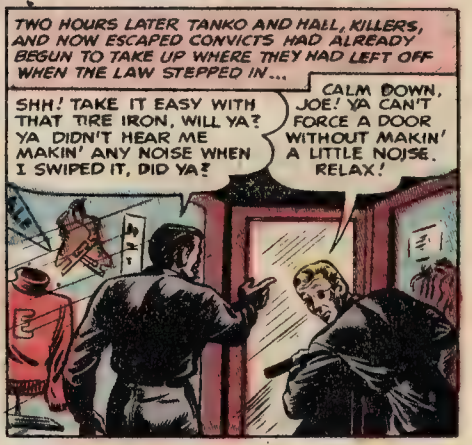
A LITTLE LATER...
...AND THAT'S THE STORY. WE WAS AFRAID IF HE CAUGHT US WE'D GET IT GOOD. NOW I TOLD YA EVERYTHIN'. YA SATISFIED?
YES, WE'RE SATISFIED.. GEORGE, LET HIM READ THE CONFESSION OVER, HAVE HIM SIGN AND PUT THE RAT BACK IN HIS CELL.
OKAY, BILL, I CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF THIS KILLER MYSELF!

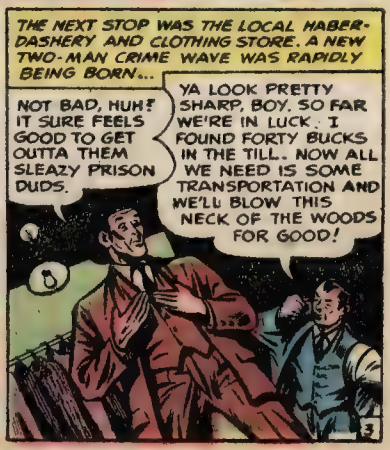
FROM POLICE FILES











FAMOUS CRIMES

COME ON, LET'S HEAD FOR THE EDGE OF TOWN. ONCE SOME GUY STOPS TO GIVE US A HITCH WE'RE IN!

WE GOTTA WORK FAST. THEY'RE GONNA FIND OUT WE'RE MISSIN' IN ABOUT A HALF-HOUR. I WANNA REALLY BE MOVIN' BY THEN.

TEN MINUTES LATER...

GOIN' UP THE ROAD APIECE, MISTER? WE MISSED THE LAST BUS AND IT AIN'T NO FUN WALKIN'!

YOU CAN SAY THAT AGAIN. NOT WITH MY CORNS ANYWAY. THIS IS THE LAST TIME I'M GONNA PLAY CARDS THIS LATE. MY WIFE IS GONNA GIMME THE DICKENS!

YEAH, I KNOW HOW IT IS, BOYS. HOP IN AND I'LL DRIVE YOU UP!

WE'RE GONNA DO THE DRIVIN', SUCKER. GET OUTTA THAT HEAP AND GET MOVIN'!

HUH? HOLDUP MEN! ALL RIGHT! ALL RIGHT, I'M COMIN'! DON'T SHOOT!

JUST MOVE FAST AND DO WHAT YA TOLD, MAC, AND YA MIGHT COME OUT ALIVE!

COME ON, JOE, WILL YA? IT'S BROAD DAYLIGHT ALREADY. YA DON'T HAVE TO MAKE A PRODUCTION OUTTA THIS, DO YA? TAKE THE GUY'S DOUGH AND LET'S SCRAM!

TAKE IT EASY, FLOYD! WE'RE GONNA NEED EVERY CENT WE CAN GET!

ALL RIGHT, YA GOT IT, DIDN'T YA? NOW COME ON! THEM GUARDS MUST BE ON THE WAY BY NOW!

I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE THIS BUBBLE HEAD DON'T RUN AN' BLAB AS SOON AS WE ROLL... NO HARD FEELIN'S, MAC.. I'M FIXIN' IT SO'S YOU'LL REST FOR AWHILE!

UNNHHHH!

I THINK WE BETTER HEAD FOR A LARGE TOWN AND GET LOST THERE. WE'RE GONNA BE AWFUL CONSPICUOUS IN THESE ONE HORSE BURGS.

I AIN'T WORRYIN' SO MUCH ABOUT BEIN' CONSPICUOUS AS I AM ABOUT GETTIN' DOWN TO BUSINESS. I'M IN THE MARKET FOR HEAVY SUGAR AND PLENTY OF IT!

THE PAIR FINALLY LANDED IN SACRAMENTO. THEIR FIRST JOB WAS THE CITY'S BEST JEWELRY STORE...

ER... GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN. WHAT CAN I-ER-DO FOR YOU?

WE'RE INTERESTED IN RINGS... DIAMOND RINGS. THE BEST YA GOT!

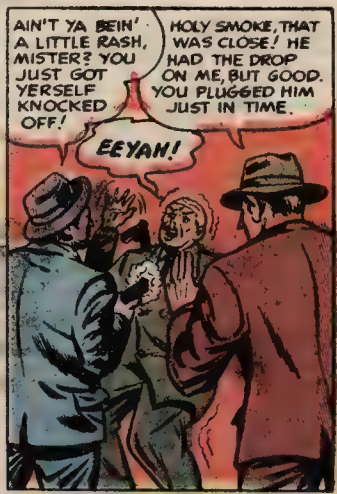
YEAH, FOR THE PEOPLE WE GOT IN MIND THE BEST IS NONE TOO GOOD.

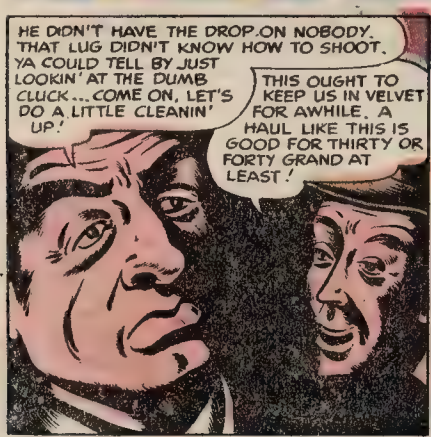
ER... THESE RINGS ARE RATHER EXPENSIVE. ARE YOU SURE YOU WISH TO SPEND SO EXTRAVAGANTLY?

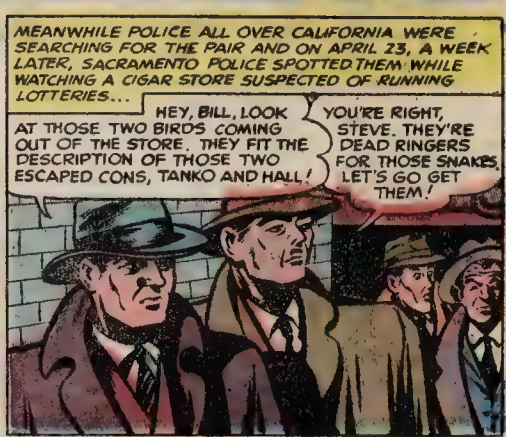
DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, BUB. PRICE DOESN'T BOTHER US A BIT!

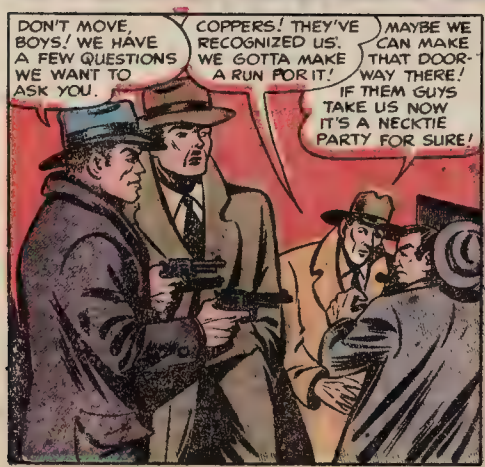
NAW, THE HIGHER THE COST, THE BETTER WE LIKE IT. BRING THEM RINGS OUT WHERE WE CAN SEE THEM!

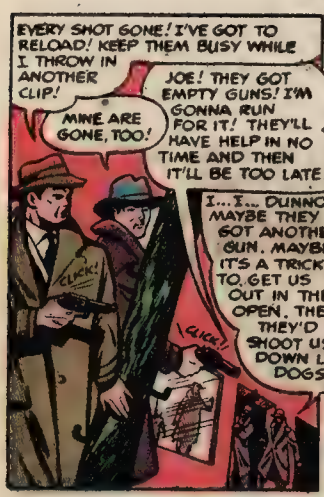
FROM POLICE FILES

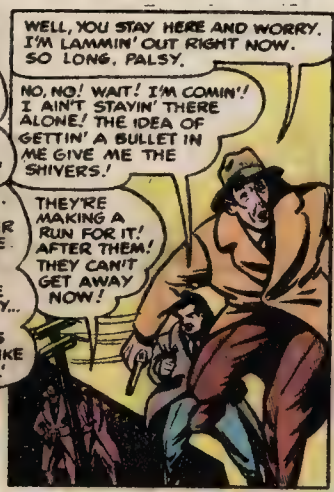




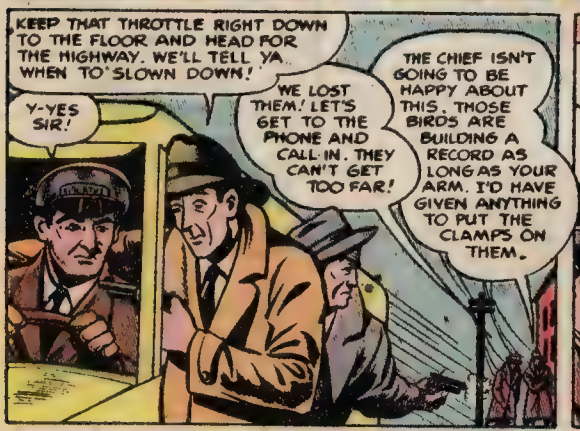




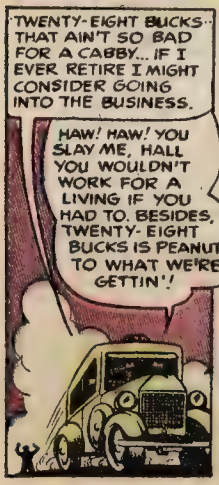

EVERY SHOT GONE! I'VE GOT TO RELOAD! KEEP THEM BUSY WHILE I THROW IN ANOTHER CLIP!
MINE ARE GONE, TOO!
JOE! THEY GOT EMPTY GUNS! I'M GONNA RUN FOR IT! THEY'LL HAVE HELP IN NO TIME AND THEN IT'LL BE TOO LATE!
I... I... DUNNO. MAYBE THEY GOT ANOTHER GUN. MAYBE IT'S A TRICK TO GET US OUT IN THE OPEN. THEY... THEY'D SHOOT US DOWN LIKE DOGS!
CLICK!
CLICK!

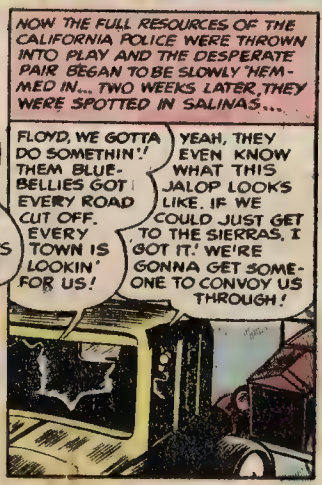

WELL, YOU STAY HERE AND WORRY. I'M LAMMIN' OUT RIGHT NOW. SO LONG, PALSY.
NO, NO! WAIT! I'M COMIN'! I AIN'T STAYIN' THERE ALONE! THE IDEA OF GETTIN' A BULLET IN ME GIVE ME THE SHIVERS!
THEY'RE MAKING A RUN FOR IT! AFTER THEM! THEY CAN'T GET AWAY NOW!

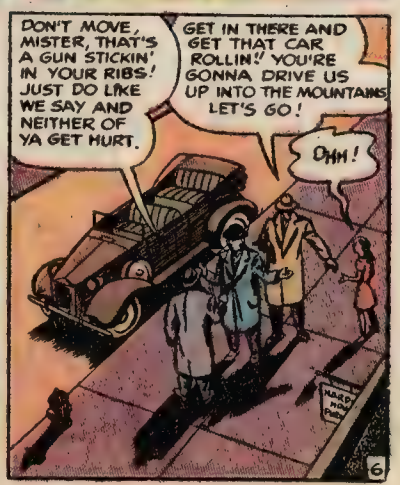
STEP ON IT, PUNK, OR I'LL LET YOU HAVE IT RIGHT THROUGH THAT UGLY SKULL OF YOURS!
HUH? SURE! SURE! ONLY DON'T SHOOT!
STOP THEM! AIM FOR THE TIRES!
THOSE SNAKES MUST BE CARRYING RABBIT'S FEET!

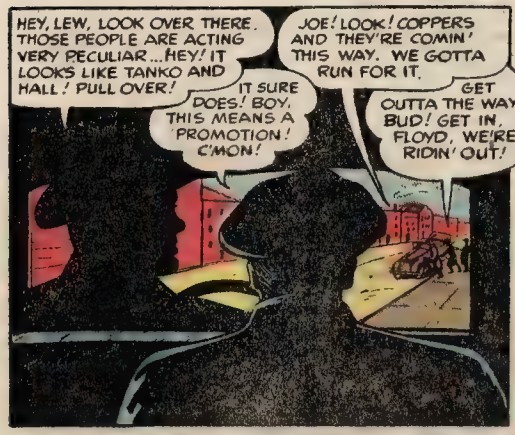

KEEP THAT THROTTLE RIGHT DOWN TO THE FLOOR AND HEAD FOR THE HIGHWAY. WE'LL TELL YA WHEN TO SLOWN DOWN!
Y-YES SIR!
WE LOST THEM! LET'S GET TO THE PHONE AND CALL IN. THEY CAN'T GET TOO FAR!
THE CHIEF ISN'T GOING TO BE HAPPY ABOUT THIS. THOSE BIRDS ARE BUILDING A RECORD AS LONG AS YOUR ARM. I'D HAVE GIVEN ANYTHING TO PUT THE CLAMPS ON THEM.

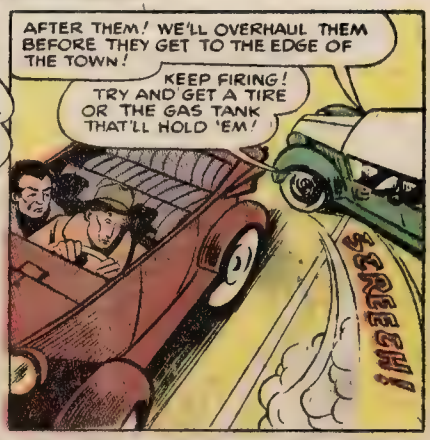
TEN MILES OUT ON THE HIGHWAY...
START WALKING, CHUM, AND BE GLAD YOU'RE ALL IN ONE PIECE! WE'RE ADOPTIN' THE CAB. ON YOUR WAY!
OW! BUT-- BUT I JUST FINISHED PAYIN' FOR THAT CAB. YOU-- YOU CAN'T...
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT THE MAN SAID? COME ON, BEAT IT, BUM!

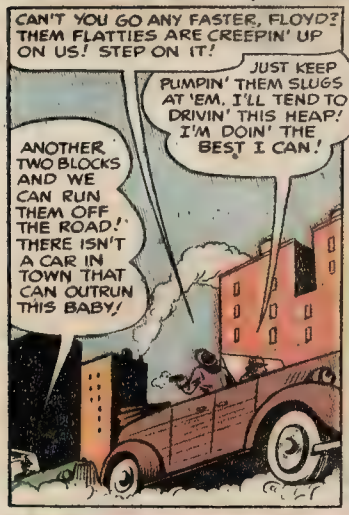

TWENTY-EIGHT BUCKS-- THAT AIN'T SO BAD FOR A CABBY... IF I EVER RETIRE I MIGHT CONSIDER GOING INTO THE BUSINESS.
HAW! HAW! YOU SLAY ME, HALL YOU WOULDN'T WORK FOR A LIVING IF YOU HAD TO. BESIDES, TWENTY-EIGHT BUCKS IS PEANUTS TO WHAT WE'RE GETTIN'!


NOW THE FULL RESOURCES OF THE CALIFORNIA POLICE WERE THROWN INTO PLAY AND THE DESPERATE PAIR BEGAN TO BE SLOWLY 'HEMMED IN... TWO WEEKS LATER, THEY WERE SPOTTED IN SALINAS...
FLOYD, WE GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'! THEM BLUE-BELLIES GOT EVERY ROAD CUT OFF. EVERY TOWN IS LOOKIN' FOR US!
YEAH, THEY EVEN KNOW WHAT THIS JALOP LOOKS LIKE. IF WE COULD JUST GET TO THE SIERRAS, I GOT IT! WE'RE GONNA GET SOMEONE TO CONVOY US THROUGH!


DON'T MOVE, MISTER, THAT'S A GUN STICKIN' IN YOUR RIBS! JUST DO LIKE WE SAY AND NEITHER OF YA GET HURT.
GET IN THERE AND GET THAT CAR ROLLIN'! YOU'RE GONNA DRIVE US UP INTO THE MOUNTAINS LET'S GO!
OHH!

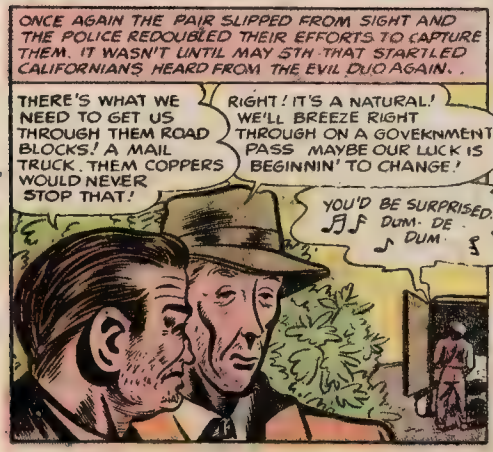

HEY, LEW, LOOK OVER THERE. THOSE PEOPLE ARE ACTING VERY PECULIAR...HEY! IT LOOKS LIKE TANKO AND HALL! PULL OVER!
IT SURE DOES! BOY, THIS MEANS A PROMOTION! C'MON!
JOE! LOOK! COPPERS AND THEY'RE COMIN' THIS WAY. WE GOTTA RUN FOR IT.
GET OUTTA THE WAY, BUD! GET IN, FLOYD, WE'RE RIDIN' OUT!


AFTER THEM! WE'LL OVERHAUL THEM BEFORE THEY GET TO THE EDGE OF THE TOWN!
KEEP FIRING! TRY AND GET A TIRE OR THE GAS TANK THAT'LL HOLD 'EM!
SCREECH!

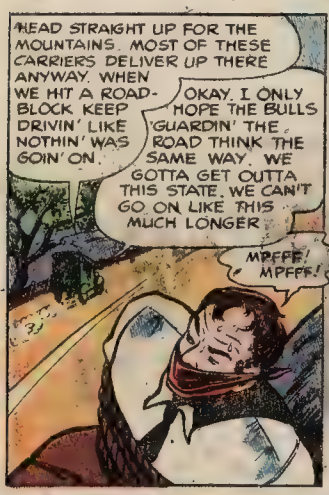

CAN'T YOU GO ANY FASTER, FLOYD? THEM FLATTIES ARE CREEPIN' UP ON US! STEP ON IT!
JUST KEEP PUMPIN' THEM SLUGS AT 'EM. I'LL TEND TO DRIVIN' THIS HEAP! I'M DOIN' THE BEST I CAN!
ANOTHER TWO BLOCKS AND WE CAN RUN THEM OFF THE ROAD! THERE ISN'T A CAR IN TOWN THAT CAN OUTRUN THIS BABY!

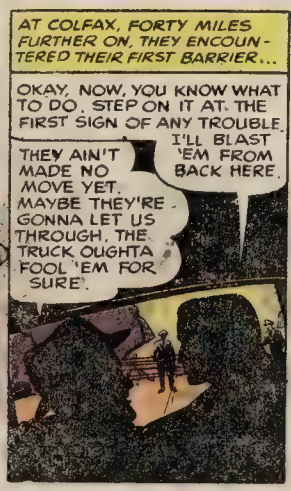
EDGE THEM OVER TOWARD THE CURB, LEW! WE'VE GOT 'EM TRAPPED!
OKAY! LOOKS LIKE IT'S... EEEYAH!

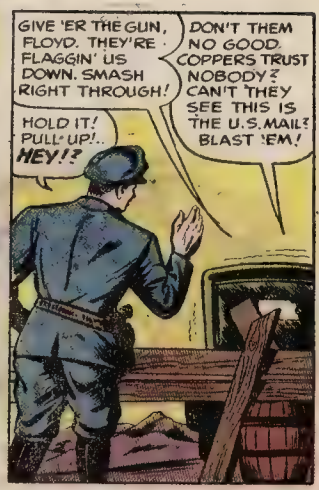
JOE. WE GOT A CLEAR PATH. THAT COP'S CAR AIN'T GONNA EVEN BE WORTH JUNKIN'
OKAY, WE'LL DITCH THIS BUGGY AND LAY LOW FOR AWHILE. WE'RE TOO HOT TO EVEN CROSS A STREET

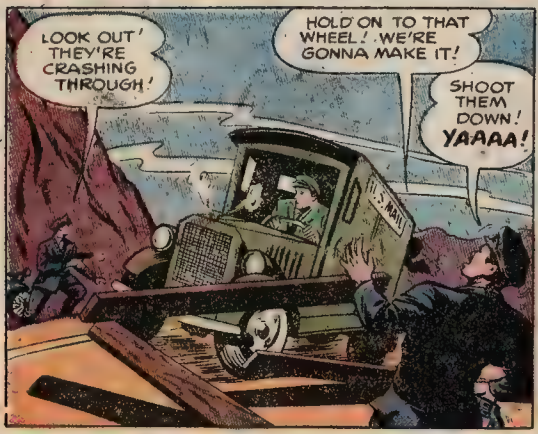

ONCE AGAIN THE PAIR SLIPPED FROM SIGHT AND THE POLICE REDOUBLED THEIR EFFORTS TO CAPTURE THEM. IT WASN'T UNTIL MAY 5TH THAT STARTLED CALIFORNIANS HEARD FROM THE EVIL DUO AGAIN..
THERE'S WHAT WE NEED TO GET US THROUGH THEM ROAD BLOCKS! A MAIL TRUCK. THEM COPPERS WOULD NEVER STOP THAT!
RIGHT! IT'S A NATURAL! WE'LL BREEZE RIGHT THROUGH ON A GOVEKNMENT PASS MAYBE OUR LUCK IS BEGINNIN' TO CHANGE!
YOU'D BE SURPRISED. DUM-DE-DUM

HE NEVER EVEN KNEW WHAT HIT HIM. AIN'T HE GONNA BE SURPRISED WHEN HE WAKES UP WITHOUT HIS UNIFORM AND TRUCK
YOU BETTER WEAR IT, FLOYD. HE'S MORE YOUR SIZE I'LL COVER YA IN THE BACK


HEAD STRAIGHT UP FOR THE MOUNTAINS. MOST OF THESE CARRIERS DELIVER UP THERE ANYWAY. WHEN WE HIT A ROAD-BLOCK KEEP DRIVIN' LIKE NOTHIN' WAS GOIN' ON.
OKAY. I ONLY HOPE THE BULLS 'GUARDIN' THE ROAD THINK THE SAME WAY. WE GOTTA GET OUTTA THIS STATE. WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS MUCH LONGER.
MPFFF! MPFFF!


AT COLFAX, FORTY MILES FURTHER ON, THEY ENCOUNTERED THEIR FIRST BARRIER...
OKAY, NOW, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO. STEP ON IT AT THE FIRST SIGN OF ANY TROUBLE.
I'LL BLAST 'EM FROM BACK HERE.
THEY AIN'T MADE NO MOVE YET. MAYBE THEY'RE GONNA LET US THROUGH. THE TRUCK OUGHTA FOOL 'EM FOR SURE.

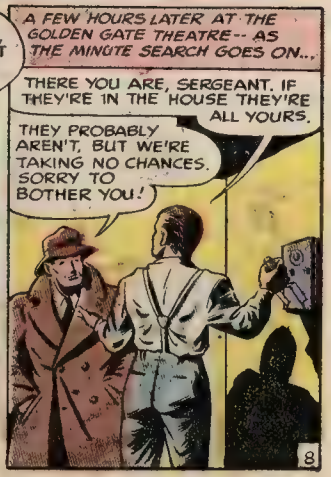

GIVE 'ER THE GUN, FLOYD. THEY'RE FLAGGIN' US DOWN. SMASH RIGHT THROUGH!
DON'T THEM NO GOOD COPPERS TRUST NOBODY? CAN'T THEY SEE THIS IS THE U.S. MAIL? BLAST 'EM!
HOLD IT! PULL UP!.. HEY!?


LOOK OUT! THEY'RE CRASHING THROUGH!
HOLD ON TO THAT WHEEL! WE'RE GONNA MAKE IT!
SHOOT THEM DOWN! YAAAA!
U.S. MAIL

HOW DO YOU LIKE THAT? THEY WENT THROUGH THAT BLOCK AS THOUGH IT WAS MADE OF PAPER! WE BETTER GET THROUGH AND NOTIFY THE NEXT TOWN!
THOSE SNAKES ARE REALLY WORRIED NOW. WE'VE GOT TO KEEP THEM OUT OF THE MOUNTAIN RANGE. THEY'LL BE GONE FOR GOOD IF THEY CAN GET PAST THE FOOTHILLS!

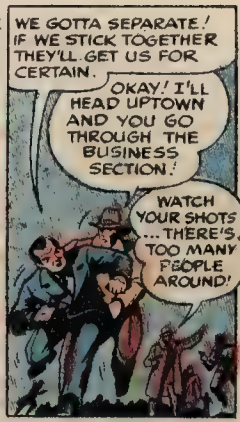
ALTHOUGH THEY MANAGED TO SLIP PAST THE BARRIER AGAIN, A TIGHTENING OF THE CORDON DROVE THE KILLERS BACK TO SACRAMENTO WHERE A TIP SOON APPRAISED POLICE OF THEIR PRESENCE...
EVERY PAPER IN THE STATE IS HOUNDING US FOR NOT BRINGING THESE PUNKS IN! WE'VE GOT TO GET THEM THIS TIME! I WANT EVERY MAN ON TWENTY FOUR HOUR DUTY. WE'RE GOING TO CONDUCT A DOOR TO DOOR SEARCH!
RIGHT, CHIEF! I DON'T THINK THEY'LL GET AWAY. WE'VE GOT TOO MANY MEN AFTER THEM. ANY OTHER ORDERS?

YES! I WANT A SQUAD TO GO THROUGH EVERY STORE, EVERY MOVIE HOUSE. DON'T LEAVE A STONE UNTURNED. THEY MUST BE CAPTURED THIS AFTERNOON!
WE'LL GET MOVING RIGHT AWAY!


A FEW HOURS LATER AT THE GOLDEN GATE THEATRE-- AS THE MINUTE SEARCH GOES ON...
THERE YOU ARE, SERGEANT. IF THEY'RE IN THE HOUSE THEY'RE ALL YOURS.
THEY PROBABLY AREN'T, BUT WE'RE TAKING NO CHANCES. SORRY TO BOTHER YOU!

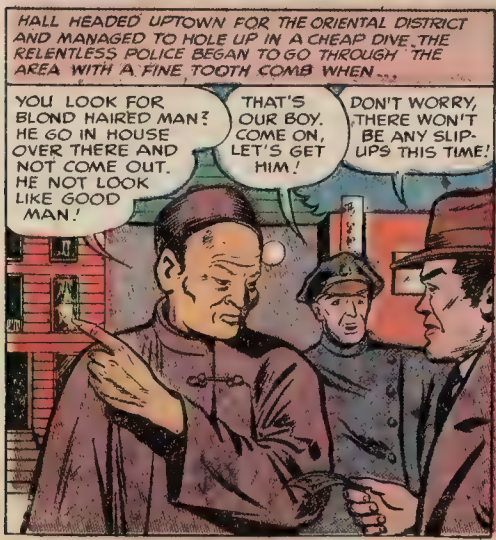
ALL RIGHT, TAKE IT EASY, FOLKS. THERE'S NOTHING WRONG. WE'RE JUST TRYING TO LOCATE SOMEONE.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE SHOW WILL GO ON AGAIN IN JUST A... SAM! THERE THEY ARE! IN THE BACK ROW!

THEY'RE HEADING FOR THE LOBBY! THE BOYS THERE WILL PICK THEM UP!
HOLD YOUR FIRE! SOMEBODY MAY GET HURT!
EEEEE!

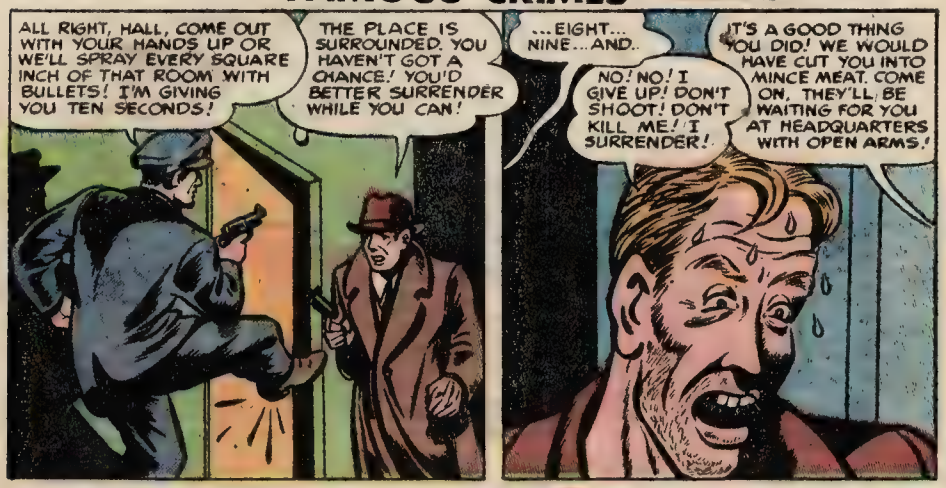

WE GOTTA SEPARATE! IF WE STICK TOGETHER THEY'LL GET US FOR CERTAIN.
OKAY! I'LL HEAD UPTOWN AND YOU GO THROUGH THE BUSINESS SECTION!
WATCH YOUR SHOTS ...THERE'S TOO MANY PEOPLE AROUND!

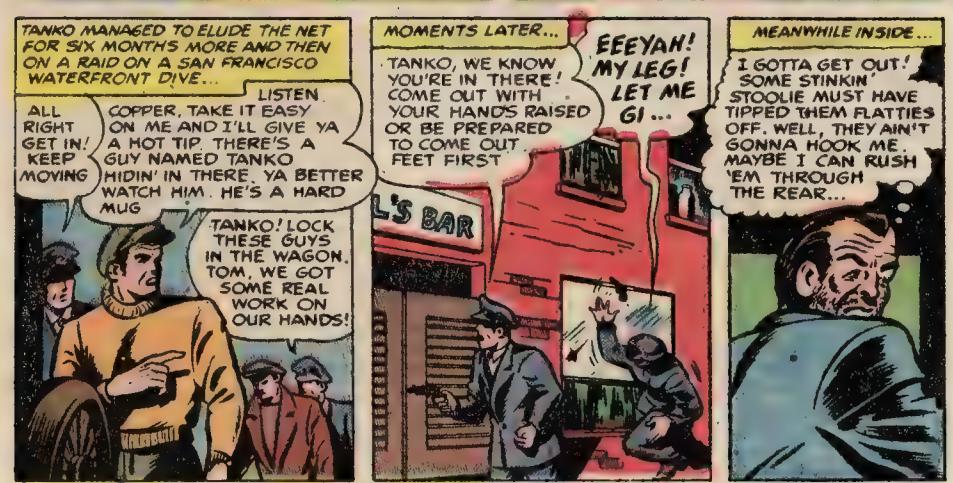
THEY'RE SEPARATING. I'LL FOLLOW THIS GUY! BREAK IT UP! LET ME THROUGH THERE!
IF I COULD GET JUST ONE CLEAR SHOT, I'D FINNISH HIM FOR GOOD!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? WHAT'S HAPPENING?

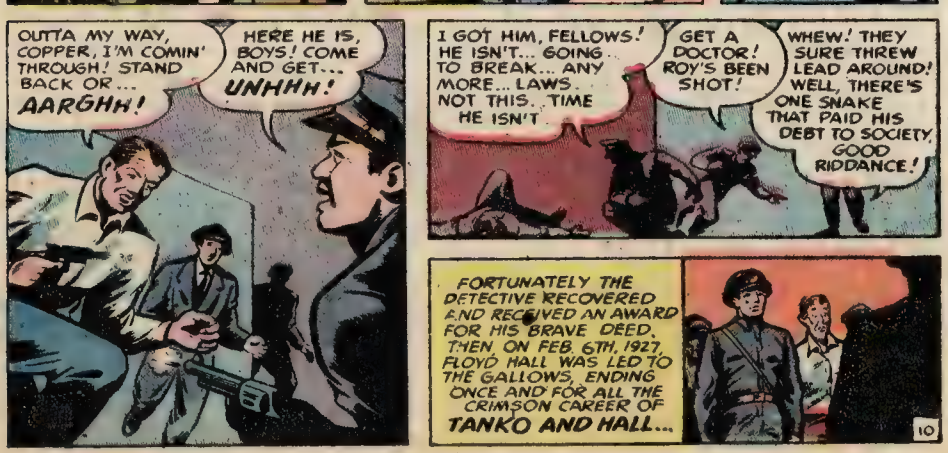
IT'S NO USE! THE CROWD RUINED EVERYTHING. WHY DON'T PEOPLE LEARN TO STAY OUT OF THE WAY?
YEAH, AND JUST WHEN WE PRACTICALLY HAD OUR HANDS ON HIM. I WONDER HOW THE OTHER BOYS ARE DOING.

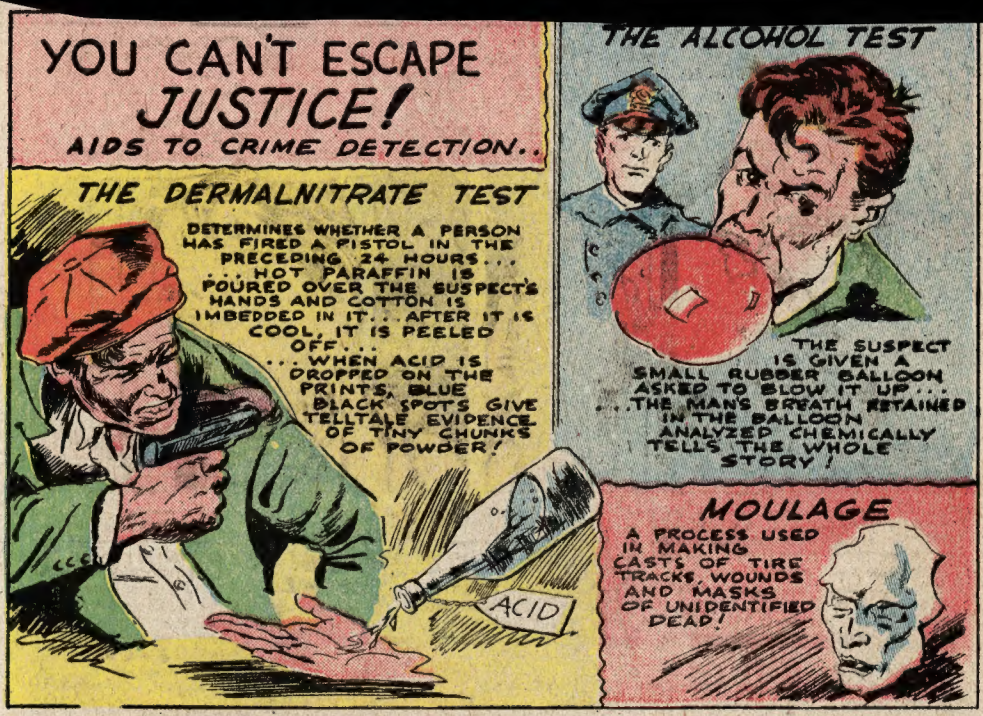

HALL HEADED UPTOWN FOR THE ORIENTAL DISTRICT AND MANAGED TO HOLE UP IN A CHEAP DIVE. THE RELENTLESS POLICE BEGAN TO GO THROUGH THE AREA WITH A FINE TOOTH COMB WHEN...
YOU LOOK FOR BLOND HAIRED MAN? HE GO IN HOUSE OVER THERE AND NOT COME OUT. HE NOT LOOK LIKE GOOD MAN!
THAT'S OUR BOY. COME ON, LET'S GET HIM!
DON'T WORRY, THERE WON'T BE ANY SLIP-UPS THIS TIME!

HE MUST BE IN THAT BACK ROOM. I KNOW THIS DIVE. THERE ISN'T ANY OTHER PLACE TO HIDE.
OKAY, THEN, LET'S TAKE HIM. SHOOT AT THE SLIGHTEST PHONEY MOVE. THERE'S NO TELLING WHAT HE MIGHT BE UP TO.


ALL RIGHT, HALL, COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP OR WE'LL SPRAY EVERY SQUARE INCH OF THAT ROOM WITH BULLETS! I'M GIVING YOU TEN SECONDS!
THE PLACE IS SURROUNDED. YOU HAVEN'T GOT A CHANCE! YOU'D BETTER SURRENDER WHILE YOU CAN!
...EIGHT... NINE... AND..
NO! NO! I GIVE UP! DON'T SHOOT! DON'T KILL ME! I SURRENDER!
IT'S A GOOD THING YOU DID! WE WOULD HAVE CUT YOU INTO MINCE MEAT. COME ON, THEY'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT HEADQUARTERS WITH OPEN ARMS!


TANKO MANAGED TO ELUDE THE NET FOR SIX MONTHS MORE AND THEN ON A RAID ON A SAN FRANCISCO WATERFRONT DIVE...
ALL RIGHT GET IN! KEEP MOVING
LISTEN COPPER, TAKE IT EASY ON ME AND I'LL GIVE YA A HOT TIP. THERE'S A GUY NAMED TANKO HIDIN' IN THERE. YA BETTER WATCH HIM. HE'S A HARD MUG
TANKO! LOCK THESE GUYS IN THE WAGON. TOM, WE GOT SOME REAL WORK ON OUR HANDS!
MOMENTS LATER...
TANKO, WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE! COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS RAISED OR BE PREPARED TO COME OUT FEET FIRST
EEEYAH! MY LEG! LET ME GI...
L'S BAR
MEANWHILE INSIDE...
I GOTTA GET OUT! SOME STINKIN' STOOLIE MUST HAVE TIPPED THEM FLATTIES OFF. WELL, THEY AIN'T GONNA HOOK ME. MAYBE I CAN RUSH 'EM THROUGH THE REAR...


OUTTA MY WAY, COPPER, I'M COMIN' THROUGH! STAND BACK OR... AARGHH!
HERE HE IS, BOYS! COME AND GET... UNHHH!
I GOT HIM, FELLOWS! HE ISN'T... GOING TO BREAK... ANY MORE... LAWS. NOT THIS. TIME HE ISN'T.
GET A DOCTOR! ROY'S BEEN SHOT!
WHEW! THEY SURE THREW LEAD AROUND! WELL, THERE'S ONE SNAKE THAT PAID HIS DEBT TO SOCIETY. GOOD RIDDANCE!
FORTUNATELY THE DETECTIVE RECOVERED AND RECEIVED AN AWARD FOR HIS BRAVE DEED. THEN, ON FEB. 6TH, 1927, FLOYD HALL WAS LED TO THE GALLOWS, ENDING ONCE AND FOR ALL THE CRIMSON CAREER OF TANKO AND HALL...



STATEMENT OF THE OWNERSHIP MANAGEMENT CIRCULATION ETC REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF CONGRESS OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933 AND JULY 2, 1946
of FAMOUS CRIMES published monthly at 221 Conyngham Ave., Wilkes Barre, Pa., for April, 1949

State of New York } ss
County of New York }

Before me, a Notary Public in and for the State and County aforesaid, personally appeared V. S. Fox, who, having been duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that he is the publisher of FAMOUS CRIMES and that the following is, to the best of his knowledge and belief, a true statement of the ownership, management (and if a daily paper, the circulation), etc., of the aforesaid publication for the date shown in the above caption, required by the Act of August 24, 1912, Postal Laws and Regulations, printed on the reverse of this form, to wit:

1. That the names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, V. S. Fox, 60 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y.; Editor, Victor S. Fox, 60 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y.; Managing Editor, none. Business Manager, Harold L. Gans, 60 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y.

2. That the owner is (if owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding one per cent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a firm, company, or other unincorporated concern, its name and address, as well as those of each individual members must be given). Fox Feature Syndicate, Inc., 60 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y.; Victor S. Fox, 60 E. 42nd St., New York 17, N. Y.

3. That the known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 per cent or more of total bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: None.

4. That the two paragraphs next above, giving the names and addresses of the owners, stockholders, and security holders, if any, contain not only the list of stockholders and security holders as they appear upon the books of the company but also, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the name of the person or corporation for whom such trustee is acting, is given; also that the said two paragraphs contain statements embracing affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner; and this affiant has no reason to believe that any other person, association, or corporation has any interest direct or indirect in the said stocks, bonds, or other securities than as so stated by him.

V. S. FOX, Publisher

Sworn and subscribed before me this 29th day of September, 1948.
MARGUERITE GADE, Notary Public
(Commission expires March 30, 1950).

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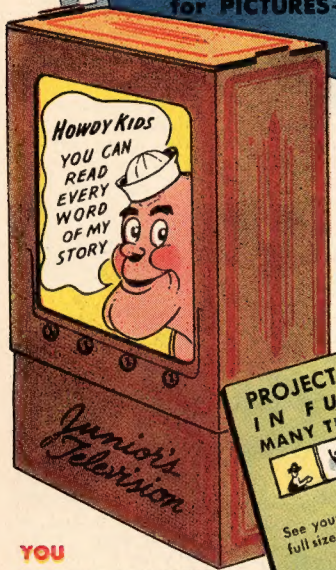

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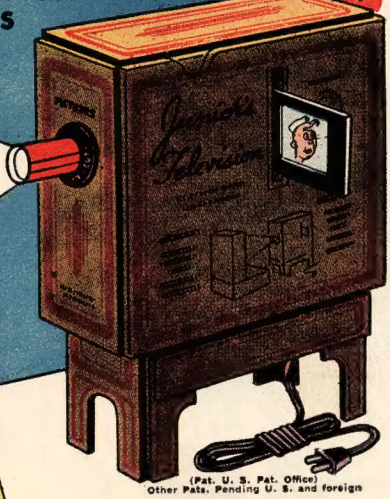

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